# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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PART 2

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2011

COMPRISING PERIOD
21 June 2010—1 July 2010

# HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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(FORMED BY THE RT HON. DAVID CAMERON, MP, MAY 2010)

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*21 June 2010*

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 21 June 2010*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Further Education Investment

**The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr John Hayes):** On 24 May it was announced that a further £50 million would be invested in further education infrastructure to support the development of new college facilities. This is in keeping with the Government's determination to make further education a key priority.

In that spirit, I am pleased to inform Parliament that the Government are today launching the College Investment Fund, and that the Skills Funding Agency will from today begin the process by which this extra resource is to be invested.

Many colleges up and down the country are still reeling from the effects of the crisis last year in the capital investment programme, which forced a review by Sir Andrew Foster that criticised

> "failures in the general management and financial management of the Learning and Skills Council".

While this Government are unable to undo the previous mismanagement of the FE capital programme, I fully recognise the crucial significance of ensuring the teaching and learning facilities in our further education colleges are up to date and fit for purpose.

Indeed, I am determined to ensure that colleges across Britain are the best they can be.

That is why the Government are so keen to support those colleges that did not previously benefit from large-scale public investment. For that reason, the £50 million additional capital will be available to all those further education colleges that have received less than £5 million in total grant support from the Learning and Skills Council since 2001.

Today, the Skills Funding Agency will write to all eligible further education colleges and confirm that they will each receive a share of a £30 million renewal grant. This will support 153 colleges across the country that have yet to benefit from significant capital funds. Each will receive approximately £225,000. I am advised that such investment is expected to facilitate considerable additional private finance.

The remaining £20 million will be made available to colleges through an enhanced renewal grant. Approximately 20 colleges will have the opportunity to add to their renewal grant, by bidding to build their total allocation to £1 million. Again it is anticipated that these grants will leverage substantial additional private finance, providing final projects of significant value.

Applications for the enhanced renewal grant will be assessed using key criteria, including the existing condition of bidding colleges' estates and facilities; resulting benefits to learners; and the contribution which each applicant's proposals make to the regeneration of their local community. Projects will be expected to meet exacting design standards, ensuring a built legacy of which all concerned can be proud.

The Skills Funding Agency and an expert panel will assess and prioritise all applications, with a view to announcing successful bids by the end of this summer. Crucially, all projects will have to be completed in time for learners to benefit from the new facilities by the start of the 2011-12 academic year.

I will be writing today to all Members of Parliament regarding this important announcement, and asking them to encourage eligible local colleges to apply for this new fund.

### National Minimum Wage

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey):** I am pleased to announce that the Government have today written to the Low Pay Commission setting out the remit for their 2011 report. I would also like to take this opportunity to set out our response to the Commission's 2010 report which was published on 25 March 2010.

*The remit for the Low Pay Commission's 2011 report*

The Low Pay Commission is asked to:

> Monitor, evaluate and review the NMW and its impact, with particular reference to:
>
> the effect on pay, employment and competitiveness in the low paying sectors, with particular reference to the competitiveness of small firms;
>
> the effect on the pay structures and employment of different groups of workers, including in particular different age groups, women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and migrant workers.
>
> Review the labour market position of young people, including those in apprenticeships and internships.
>
> Review the levels of each of the different minimum wage rates and make recommendations for October 2011.
>
> Review the arrangements for the apprentice minimum wage.
>
> Report to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills by the end of February 2011.

*The Low Pay Commission's 2010 report*

The main recommendations put forward by the Low Pay Commission concern the rates of the minimum wage and an apprentice minimum wage. The Commission have recommended that the adult hourly rate of the minimum wage should increase from £5.80 to £5.93 and reaffirmed the recommendation in their 2009 report that the adult rate should also apply to workers aged 21. They have also recommended increasing the development rate (which will cover workers aged 18-20 years) from £4.83 to £4.92 and that the rate for 16-17 year olds moves from £3.57 to £3.64. They recommend that these changes take place in October 2010.

The Commission has also recommended that there should be a single apprentice minimum wage rate of £2.50 per hour for those apprentices currently exempt from the national minimum wage; that is, all those under the age of 19 and those aged 19 and over in the first 12 months of their apprenticeship.

The Government accept these recommendations.

In addition, the Government accept the Commission's recommendations that there should be specific guidance on the national minimum wage for the entertainment sector; and that HMRC investigates whether contract and agency cleaners in the hotel sector are receiving their entitlement under the national minimum wage for their hours worked.

The Government note the Commission's recommendation that there should be a commitment, as a minimum, to maintaining current funding in real terms for monitoring and enforcement of the national minimum wage until at least March 2014.

*Government's response to individual recommendations in the Low Pay Commission's 2010 report*

*National Minimum Wage rates*

We recommend that the adult minimum wage rate should increase from £5.80 to £5.93 from October 2010.

We recommend that the youth development rate should increase from £4.83 to £4.92 and that the 16-17 Year Old Rate should increase from £3.57 to £3.64 from October 2010.

We recommend that the accommodation offset should increase from £4.51 to £4.61 per day from October 2010.

ACCEPT

*Apprentices*

We recommend that non-employed apprentices are excluded from the apprentice minimum wage and continue to be exempt from the national minimum wage.

We recommend that the apprentice minimum wage be applied as a single rate to those apprentices currently exempt from the national minimum wage. That is all those under the age of 19 and those aged 19 and over in the first 12 months of their apprenticeship. The wage should cover both those employed on traditional contracts of apprenticeship and employed apprentices on government-supported level 2 and 3 schemes.

We recommend that all hours of work and training (relating to both on-the-job and off-the-job) under an apprenticeship should be counted as hours for which the apprentice wage must be paid. All hours should be paid at the same wage rate.

We recommend that the apprentice minimum wage be set at an hourly rate.

We recommend the apprentice wage is set at a rate of £2.50 per hour and is introduced from October 2010.

We recommend that in England transitional arrangements are put in place so that current apprentices retain a contractual entitlement to at least £95 per week for the remainder of their apprenticeship or until they are entitled to the national minimum wage.

We recommend that the Government include the review of the apprentice minimum wage rate and arrangements in our annual terms of reference.

ACCEPT

*Particular Groups of Workers*

We recommend that the Government produce, in conjunction with interested parties, sector-specific guidance on the national minimum wage for the entertainment sector.

We recommend that HMRC investigates whether contract and agency cleaners in the hotel sector are receiving their entitlement under the national minimum wage for their hours worked.

ACCEPT

*Compliance and Enforcement*

We recommend that the Government commit, as a minimum, to maintaining current funding in real terms for monitoring and enforcement of the national minimum wage until at least March 2014.

NOTE

The Government consider that effective enforcement of the national minimum wage is extremely important; however we do not believe that it would be appropriate to accept a recommendation that would commit the Government to the allocation of resources for future years.

Copies of the Low Pay Commission's remit and the Government's response to the Commission's 2010 report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Inland Waterways

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon):** I am pleased to be appointed as Waterways Minister as I am familiar with the public benefits the waterways provide and I am making this statement to set out how I intend to take forward inland waterways policy for England and Wales. The Government consider civil society has a very valuable role to play in delivering public services as part of our commitment to creating a big society. We will therefore be continuing to look in detail at whether a third sector model would be appropriate for British Waterways, including the possible inclusion of the Environment Agency's navigations as the other navigation authority grant aided by Government. My Department will be engaging a wide range of stakeholders in this work, and liaising with the Scottish Government. However I must make clear that, given the Government's overriding objective of reducing the financial deficit, no decisions on such a change will be taken until after the forthcoming spending review. In the light of this I have also decided not to proceed now with a new Government waterways strategy and I will review the situation following the spending review.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### EU Documents

**The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington):** In the interest of the House and on behalf of Government I am depositing in the Library a full list of explanatory memorandums submitted by the Government from 12 April to 9 June. This covers the period of Dissolution and the subsequent weeks during which the parliamentary scrutiny Committees have not met.

I will also deposit a full list of EU documents deposited by the Government in the Library of the House during the same period.

I would invite members to examine both these lists and to raise any questions of policy in the usual way or via correspondence. It is vital that the House has a chance to scrutinise the work of Government and to consider policy. This is particularly true of our EU business.

As noted by the Foreign Secretary to the House on 3 June, we are looking to improve parliamentary scrutiny of decision-making in Europe and ahead of ministerial Councils.

## HEALTH

### NHS Operating Framework

**The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley):** Today I am publishing a document setting out the revisions to the NHS operating framework for 2010-11. The document has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

In now moving towards a health service which puts patients at the heart of decision making, which focuses on quality and outcomes not processes, and with more devolved responsibilities, this short document sets out a number of areas subject to immediate change.

The Department will cease to centrally performance-manage the previous Government's targets on 18-week waiting times and access to primary care. More clinically relevant accident and emergency indicators will be developed for 2011-12. Locally led plans should deliver improvements in median waiting times and access.

The coalition Government are committed to stopping top-down reorganisations of the NHS that have got in the way of patient care. To that end, a moratorium is in place for future and ongoing reconfiguration proposals. All current and future reconfiguration proposals will need to meet four new tests as I set out in the document; and can go forward, if and when they do so.

I shall set out that primary care trusts (PCTs) should accelerate the process to transform community services with clear deadlines.

I have asked each strategic health authority (SHA) region to now go further, faster, to release all possible resources to meet demand and quality challenges. The overall ceiling for management costs in PCTs and SHAs will now be set at two thirds of the 2008-09 management costs (£1,509 million), the ceiling will therefore be £1,006 million. In aggregate, PCTs and SHAs will need to save at least £222 million in 2010-11 and a further £350 million by the end of 2011-12.

I am asking NHS organisations to ensure that they demonstrate similar discipline to central Government on consultancy, marketing and information, communications and technology spend, recruitment, and centralised procurement for goods and services.

The number of best practice tariffs shall be expanded where payment is linked to best practice care, as well as expanding the list of never events so that no payment is made for services, which compromise patient safety.

I announced on 8 June 2010 my intention to make hospitals responsible for patients 30 days after discharge, one of the key health commitments in the coalition agreement. If a patient is re-admitted during that time, the hospital will not receive any further payment for the additional treatment. Making hospitals responsible for a patient's ongoing care after discharge will create more joined-up working between hospitals and community services and may be supported by the developments in re-ablement and post-discharge support. This will improve quality and performance and shift the focus to the outcome for the patient.

These are the only changes I am making in-year. The remainder of the NHS operating framework 2010-11, which was published on 16 December 2009, still stands and I expect the NHS to play its role when partnership approaches are needed to secure better outcomes.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Control Order Powers Report

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

*The future of the control order regime*

The document "The Coalition: A Programme for Government" released on 20 May 2010 and available to view at: http://programmeforgovernment.hmg.gov.uk sets out the Government's plan for the next five years. In that statement the Government stated that

> "We will urgently review control orders, as part of a wider review of counter-terrorist legislation, measures and programmes".

This review is now being taken forward as a priority. We will report the outcome of the review to Parliament in due course.

*The exercise of the control order powers in the last quarter*

As explained in previous quarterly statements on control orders, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that the obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold control order review groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of options for bringing each control order to an end while managing the risk to the public. During this reporting period, two CORGs were held in relation to the orders currently in force. In addition, further meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 March 2010 to 10 June 2010, two non-derogating control orders were made with the permission of the court and served. Three control orders were renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act in this reporting period. In this reporting period there was one revocation of a control order on the direction of the court on the basis that the court considered that the order was not necessary.

At the end of the reporting period 12 control orders were in force, 10 of which were in respect of British citizens. All of these control orders were non-derogating. Four of the individuals subject to a control order were living in the Metropolitan Police Service area; the remaining individuals were living in other police force areas. During this reporting period, one individual has been charged with breaching his control order obligations; and one set of criminal proceedings for breach of a control order were concluded following a CPS decision that prosecution was no longer in the public interest.

During this reporting period, 43 modifications of control order obligations were made. Ten requests to modify control order obligations were refused.

Section 10(1) of the 2005 Act provides a right of appeal against a decision by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent. Three appeals under section 10(1) of the 2005 Act have been lodged with the High Court during this reporting period. A right of appeal is also provided by section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against decisions by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to revoke their order and/or to modify any obligation under the order. During this reporting period two appeals have been lodged with the High Court under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act.

One judgment has been handed down in relation to substantive judicial review proceedings under section 3(10) of the 2005 Act during this reporting period. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AN*, handed down on 12 March 2010, the court directed the Secretary of State to revoke the control order on the basis that the court considered that the order was not necessary. No further detail can be given for legal reasons.

One judgment has been handed down in relation to proceedings under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act during this reporting period. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. BX*, handed down on 10 May 2010, the court upheld the decision to relocate *BX* on the grounds that his removal from his extremist associates was properly regarded as necessary for purposes connected with preventing or restricting *BX's* involvement in terrorism-related activity and proportionate.

Another judgment was handed down in relation to *BX* by the Court of Appeal, on 4 May 2010. The court dismissed *BX's* appeal, holding that the High Court had reached a proper decision in concluding on the material that there were strong grounds for an urgent relocation and in setting early hearings for disclosure and for the appeal. The court found that (other than in a rare case not so far identified) the proper and appropriate route of challenging a modification decision is by way of a statutory appeal under the 2005 Act and that an interlocutory application for an injunction can be made under section 10 of the Act.

One further individual previously subject to a control order has been granted permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Most full judgments are available at: http://www.bailii.org/.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Social Fund Consultation Closes

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb):** The consultation on the proposals set out in the Green Paper "Social Fund Reform: debt, credit and low income households" (Cm 7750) closed on 7 June 2010. I would like to thank those who took the time to respond. Sixty-eight responses were received in total; 64 from organisations and four from individuals. The Government will now consider the responses as they develop proposals for wider welfare reform.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 22 June 2010*

## TREASURY

### Anti Avoidance

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke):** The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced today as part of the Budget an increase in the standard rate of VAT to 20 % to take effect from 4 January 2011.

The Government have taken this step to contribute to tackling the deficit. To protect the public finances from artificial avoidance aimed at exploiting the change in VAT rate where there is no current economic activity, the Finance Bill 2010 will contain anti-forestalling legislation to ensure that the VAT rate change is fully effective.

Anti-forestalling legislation will apply from today to ensure that, in the circumstances specified, supplies with a basic time of supply after the VAT rate increase takes effect will be subject to the rate of VAT in force at that time. The provisions are designed to prevent artificial forestalling while not affecting genuine commercial transactions, and few businesses will need to operate them. The legislation is not intended to catch the normal commercial activity of providing goods and services.

The anti-forestalling legislation will apply from today, but any extra VAT arising from its operation will not become due at the earliest until the date of the VAT rate change. Until then, suppliers should continue to account for VAT as normal, applying the VAT rate at the time of the prepayment, VAT invoice issue or grant of the right or option.

Further guidance on the anti-forestalling legislation is available at www.hmrc.gov.uk. Copies of the guidance have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Double Taxation Agreement (United Kingdom and Hong Kong)

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke):** A new Double Taxation Agreement with Hong Kong was signed on 21 June 2010. The text of the agreement has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

## EDUCATION

### Education Spending

**The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove):** The Government have today announced a two-year pay freeze for all public sector workforces from 2011-12, but remain committed to honouring in full the three-year pay award recommended by the School Teachers' Review Body. I can therefore confirm that the teachers' pay uplift for this year will be implemented from September 2010, marking the last instalment of their three-year pay award.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture and Fisheries Council

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman):** My hon. Friends the Minister of State and the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister with responsibility for natural environment and fisheries, the hon. Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon), will represent the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg on 29 June. Richard Lochhead MSP will also attend.

There are a number of items on the agenda relating to agriculture and fisheries which are of significant interest to the United Kingdom. Discussion will take place on the following:

Simplification of agriculture legislation;

Quarterly report on the dairy market;

Commission communication on the consultation on fishing opportunities for 2011;

Reform of the common fisheries policy.

In addition, Council will vote on six decisions relating to GM maize food/feed, and may adopt conclusions on the international competitiveness of the European agri-food model. There are currently two items under any other business—information from the Commission on the implementation of the European fisheries fund (EFF); and information from the Netherlands on the "Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change".

Finally Ministers will discuss the reform of the common market organisation (CMO) for fishery and aquaculture products over lunch.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council

**The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington):** The General Affairs Council (GAC) and Foreign Affairs Council (FCA) were held on 14 June in Brussels. My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Development Secretary represented the UK at the FAC. I also attended, and represented at the GAC.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

#### FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS)

The provisional report of the meetings of both Development and Foreign Ministers, including conclusions, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/newsroom/loadbook.aspx?BID=78&LANG=1&cmsid=1850

Development Ministers discussed the millennium development goals (MDGs), an EU gender action plan, and development and piracy in East Africa.

Ministers adopted conclusions on the MDGs (see web link above) which will form the basis for EU negotiations ahead of the New York UN MDG summit in September 2010. The Development Secretary strongly encouraged EU member states to uphold their collective commitment to provide 0.7% ODA/GNI by 2015, and called for annual leaders' discussions on ODA.

The Development Secretary also stressed the importance of maternal and child health, two of the most off-track MDGs, and was supported in his recognition of the importance of policy coherence, aid effectiveness and transparency. The Development Secretary further supported the adoption of an EU gender action plan for 2010-15, and welcomed the High Representative's (Baroness Ashton) aim to launch a comprehensive strategy for the horn of Africa to deal with the problems of piracy and development in this region.

### Foreign Affairs Council (Foreign Ministers)

*Gaza*

Tony Blair, representing the quartet, briefed Ministers on Israel's undertakings to ease the Gaza blockade and to hold an inquiry on the Gaza flotilla incident. Following a substantive discussion of the flotilla incident, Ministers set out their views on wider middle east process issues including Gaza access, and the helpful role played by other states in the region. The Council agreed conclusions that can be found at the web link quoted above.

*Western Balkans*

Ministers heard a presentation from International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Chief Prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, on Serbia's and Croatia's co-operation with the court.

Ministers agreed to submit Serbia's stabilisation and association agreement to their respective parliaments for ratification. They also agreed to return to the issue of Serbia's accession application at a later time.

The Council agreed conclusions welcoming the outcome of the high-level meeting on the Western Balkans in Sarajevo on 2 June, which emphasised the EU's commitment to the European perspective of the Western Balkans countries in line with the Thessaloniki agenda. Ministers also expressed concern about the political situation in Albania and discussed the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

*Iran*

Ministers discussed Iran following the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1929 concerning Iran's nuclear programme. The Foreign Secretary set out his strong support for the UNSCR and advocated an endorsement of a draft declaration for the June European Council.

Ministers agreed conclusions (see web link above). They also agreed a draft declaration for the June European Council inviting the next Foreign Affairs Council to agree measures to implement UNSCR 1929 and a range of additional EU measures.

*Child Labour*

Ministers agreed conclusions on child labour (see web link above).

*Somalia/Piracy*

Over lunch, Ministers heard a presentation from Rear Admiral Hudson (UK), the outgoing operational commander of the EU's counter-piracy mission (Atalanta) now replaced by Major-General Buster Howes RM (UK). The Council agreed that the EU should extend the operation for a further two years and the Foreign Secretary stated the UK would be willing to offer Northwood as the operation headquarters until the end of 2012. When the formal Council decision to extend is prepared later this year, it will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny in the usual way. Ministers agreed conclusions (see web link).

*Cuba*

Ministers discussed Cuba in the context of the evaluation of the EU's common position. There were no conclusions, but Ministers may revert to the issue in September.

*Haiti and Disaster Response*

The Commissioner for International Co-operation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, presented lessons learned on the EU's Haiti disaster response. The Commissioner noted opportunities under the Lisbon treaty for better co-ordination and institutional management of responses and ensuring planned rather than ad hoc humanitarian, civil protection and military responses.

*Corfu Process*

Baroness Ashton set out priorities ahead of the informal OSCE ministerial in July which will discuss the Corfu process.

*Kyrgyzstan*

This was added to the agenda following recent violence over the weekend. Ministers adopted conclusions that stressed the need to restore public order and respect for the rule of law, to pursue the political process, and underlined the need for dialogue. The conclusions also reflected the EU's readiness to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs.

### General Affairs Council

The provisional text of the Council's discussion and agreed conclusions can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/newsroom/loadbook.aspx?BID=72&LANG=1&cmsid=1851

*European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)*

The presidency sought agreement for a revised "general approach" to its proposal implementing the ECI: an initiative from the Lisbon treaty that will enable EU citizens to ask the Commission to bring forward legislative proposals if there are at least 1 million signatories from a significant number of member states.

I supported the principles of the ECI, but expressed concern about the level of bureaucracy in the proposal; specifically, dual admissibility checks, verification processes and the lack of an impact assessment. However, I noted that this was only the start of a process, and that the "general approach" would evolve. As parliamentary scrutiny is still outstanding, I said that the UK would abstain from supporting at this time. The presidency concluded that it had sufficient support to proceed with the "General Approach", but acknowledged the UK's concerns and recognised that the UK had captured the mood of the Council.

*June European Council (JEC)*

Ministers examined draft conclusions for the European Council meeting to be held on 17 June. The discussion covered: jobs and growth and the adoption of the Europe 20202 strategy; preparations for the G20 summit in Toronto millennium development goals; and climate change. The Prime Minister will report to Parliament on the outcome of the JEC.

I set out the UK's positions on MDGs, economic governance and education targets.

*European External Action Service (EAS)*

The presidency and the High Representative set out progress in the ongoing negotiations with the European Parliament on the establishment of the EAS.

The Council also agreed conclusions on:

economic and social cohesion in the EU;

the EU's outermost regions;

common practices in consular assistance and crisis co-ordination;

maritime policy.

### Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU): Judicial Reappointments

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** At a conference of representatives of Governments of member states on 23 June 2010, 11 sitting judges to the General Court are to be reappointed.

The judges to be reappointed are: Frimodt Nielsen (Denmark); Franklin Dehousse (Belgium); Heikki Kanninen (Finland); Irena Wiszniewska-Bialecka (Poland); Josef Azizi (Austria); Juraj Schwarcz (Slovakia); Küllike Jürimäe (Estonia); Marc Jaeger (Luxembourg); Maria Eugénia Martins de Nazaré Ribeiro (Portugal); Otto Czúcz (Hungary); and Savvas Papasavvas (Cyprus).

Following favourable opinions of the candidates from the Judicial Appointments Panel (Article 255 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) and having consulted with the Justice Secretary and Attorney-General, the Foreign Secretary agrees with the proposal to reappoint the 11 judges.

## TRANSPORT

### EU Transport Council

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond):** I will attend the second Transport Council of the Spanish presidency which will take place in Luxembourg on 24 June.

A wide-ranging EU-US air transport agreement came into effect in April 2008. Its provisions included removal of all commercial restrictions on flights between the EU and the US; and improved co-operation in safety, security, competition, consumer protection and the environment. Negotiations for "Stage 2" of the agreement began in May 2008. The negotiations have led to a solid outcome, which includes recognition of the importance of greater access for airlines to global capital markets and a widening of the reach of the agreement in environmental matters. I propose to agree to the signature of the Stage 2 agreement at the Council. A signing ceremony is planned for later in the day.

The Commission will present to the Council its report on the EU response to the consequences of the recent volcanic ash cloud on air transport. The Commission's report was produced at the request of an extraordinary session of the Transport Council on 4 May. The Commission is expected to provide an overview of the technical work that has been taking place at national, European and global level to increase the understanding of safe flying in areas affected by ash and to examine how the rules and guidance might be improved. My intention would be to encourage further co-operation in this area in order to ensure that airlines and passengers are subjected to the minimum of disruption internationally should there be another eruption. The issue of financial assistance for companies affected by the ash disruption may arise. While recognising the significant financial impact of lost revenue and/or passenger assistance, I do not intend to raise any expectations and would propose to emphasise that budgetary constraints make any support from UK taxpayers unlikely.

The Council will be asked to adopt conclusions following the Commission Communication on Urban Mobility, which set out an action plan. We support the principles of the action plan, and the opportunity to spread best practice across the Community. The conclusions take a common-sense approach by making use wherever possible, of existing institutions, programmes and instruments. I welcome the recognition that intelligent transport systems offer strategic options for improving urban mobility as this is an area that the UK has focused on. I also welcome the focus in the conclusions on research of all kinds on clean and energy-efficient vehicles. It is important that the action plan does not lead to further legislation, and that cities and city regions retain the freedom to pursue and implement locally relevant solutions.

There will be a policy debate on the role of transport in the "Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". No conclusions are expected and no decisions will be taken. I will take the opportunity to highlight how EU transport policy can and should promote jobs and growth.

Notable among the AOB items is a report from the Commission on security scanners. This report concludes that security scanners at airports could help to reinforce passenger security and, where deployed, should be covered by common EU-wide standards covering performance, fundamental rights and health provisions. Scanners are currently deployed at several UK airports.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 23 June 2010*

## TREASURY

### IMF (New Arrangements to Borrow)

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne):** The Government have today laid the International Monetary Fund (Limit on Lending) Order 2010 before the House of Commons. Copies of the revised New Arrangements to Borrow, which relate to this order, have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

## JUSTICE

### HM Courts Service Estate

**The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke):** I am today announcing proposals for consultation that I believe will enable HMCS to best provide vital public services to local communities. Our court system has long been a guardian of British values of fairness and responsibility. I believe that the changes proposed in this statement will preserve those values.

We need to look critically at the services courts provide—they are a vital pillar of the justice system but they are not the only forum where civil disputes can be resolved. I want to explore whether more people can resolve their disputes using alternative methods which give faster solutions that are flexible to people's needs. Across the civil, family and criminal courts, I want to look at what can be done to use technology more effectively so fewer people have physically to attend court for routine purposes. Increasingly we are using the internet, telephone and video technology in our work and personal lives—we should be more rigorous in exploring their use across the justice system.

HMCS currently operates out of 530 courts, some of which do not fit the needs of modern communities. Their number and location does not reflect recent changes in population, workload or transport and communication links over the many years since they were originally opened.

My Department has published consultation papers setting out proposals to close 103 magistrates courts and 54 county courts and inviting views on how we can best provide local justice services in our communities across England and Wales. In reaching decisions on closures I will ensure that we keep courts in the most strategically important locations, communities continue to have access to courts within a reasonable travelling distance, that cases are heard in courts with suitable facilities and that there is an overall reduction in cost.

Closure of the courts covered in the consultation would achieve running cost savings of around £15.3 million per year. These courts also have backlog maintenance of around £21.5 million, costs that can be avoided if the closures go ahead. Following a full analysis of responses to the consultation, and a decision on whether and which courts to close, a further assessment will take place on the level of savings that could be achieved and the potential value that could be released from the disposal of the properties. I believe that as well as savings to HMCS there will also be savings for other criminal justice agencies by focusing their attendance at a single accessible location within a community.

When public finances are under pressure, it is vital to eliminate waste and reduce costs. At the same time we should also take the opportunity to think afresh about how we can provide more modern court services. The arrangements we currently have are historical and now need to be reassessed to ask if they meet the needs of society as it is today. We increasingly use the internet and email to communicate and access services and we travel further to work, for leisure and to do our weekly shop. Providing access to justice does not necessarily mean providing a courthouse in every town or city. Across the civil and criminal courts there are great opportunities to harness technology more effectively so people do not necessarily have to physically attend court when they give evidence or access court services. Not all disputes need to be resolved in court. I will also examine ways of enabling more people to resolve their disputes in a way that leads to faster and more satisfactory solutions. We will continue to develop proposals for introducing alternatives that deliver a better service for less money.

The consultation seeks the views of all with an interest in local justice arrangements. I will take all views expressed into account before making any decision on which courts ought to be closed and when. I also invite views on how the courts service could be modernised to improve the justice system as well as reduce its costs.

The consultation also includes proposals on the merger of a number of local justice areas which would enable effective changes to courthouse provision. This will facilitate further efficiency savings in administrative work, while enabling an effective service to continue to be provided by magistrates to the public.

I am also announcing that following a consultation on the proposed closure of Leigh County Court in 2009, I have decided that this court should close without further delay. Since an arson attack two years ago, all cases that would have been heard in Leigh are being heard in Wigan or Warrington, only seven and 10 miles away respectively. This has not caused any disruption to the delivery of justice in Greater Manchester.

The consultation documents and the full list of courts we are consulting on will be published on the Ministry of Justice website. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

### Legal Aid Reform

**The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke):** I confirm that we are considering policy on the subject of legal aid in England and Wales as announced in the Government's document "The Coalition: our programme for government" published last month. The Government are considering how to make the system more efficient having regard to the current financial climate, while ensuring that it continues to play a vital part in ensuring that people can get access to justice.

This Government's immediate priority is to reduce the financial deficit and encourage economic recovery. We have made it clear that the main burden of the deficit reduction will be borne by reduced public spending, achieved by financial discipline and the most efficient and effective delivery of public services. I am seeking to develop an approach to legal aid spending which balances these necessary financial constraints with the interests of justice and the wider public interest. We will seek to develop an approach which is compatible with fair and necessary access to justice for those who need it most, the protection of the most vulnerable in our society, the efficient performance of the justice system, and our international legal obligations.

We intend to seek views on our proposed new approach in the autumn.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 24 June 2010*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Postal Services

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey):** The Government believe that unless we take the right steps Royal Mail risks being laid low by falling mail volumes, low investment and its huge pension deficit.

To address these challenges, we propose to introduce a Bill in the first Session of this Parliament that will help modernise the Royal Mail, in partnership with employees, and ensure that the company benefits from private sector capital and disciplines.

We believe that the recommendations and analysis in Richard Hooper's report on the maintenance of the universal postal service in the UK published in December 2008 are still broadly valid today, but as our policy develops we want to be able to test it against current market conditions. I have, therefore, asked Richard Hooper to update his report.

The terms of reference for Richard Hooper's update are:

> To consider developments in the postal sector and Royal Mail since the publication of the review's final report.
>
> To test whether the underlying issues which threatened the maintenance of the universal postal service remain.
>
> To consider whether the recommendations in the report still provide the best solutions to maintaining the universal service.

I have asked him to let the Government have his initial views in the summer and he will publish a fuller update by early autumn.

## DEFENCE

### Police and Guarding Agency

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan):** Priorities for 2010-11 have been set for the chief constable/chief executive of the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency (MDPGA). These priorities are linked to the delivery of the agency's key outputs of providing an effective policing and guarding service. In brief the eight priorities are:

*Priority 1*—By 31 March 2011 to have ensured that the customer requirement for Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) and Ministry of Defence Guard Service (MGS) services are matched with available resources, through proactive engagement with TLBs.

*Priority 2a*—By 31 March 2011 to have delivered at least 95% of MDP agreed UK customer tasks.

*Priority 2b*—By 31 March 2011 to have delivered at least 95% of MGS agreed UK customer tasks.

*Priority 3a*—By 31 March 2011 to have improved MDP customer satisfaction using the 2009 survey results as a baseline.

*Priority 3b*—By 31 March 2011 to have improved MGS customer satisfaction using the 2009 survey results as a baseline.

*Priority 4*—By 31 March 2011 to have achieved a detection rate of at least 55% of recorded crime that significantly impact on defence capability.

*Priority 5*—By 31 March 2011 to have achieved all agreed international tasks.

*Priority 6a*—By 31 March 2011 to have met and maintained external MDP accreditation and compliance for:

a. NPIA Firearms Training Licence.
b. Professionalising Investigation Programme Compliance.
c. ACPO accreditation for Police Dog Training Instructors.
d. Management of Police Information.
e. Home Office Counting Rules for Recording Crime/Scottish Crime Recording Standards.
f. National Standard for Incident Reporting.

*Priority 6b*—By 31 March 2011 to have met and maintained external MGS accreditations for:

a. The National Security Industry Gold Standard
b. Security Industry Authority Standard.

*Priority 7*—By 31 March 2011 to have maintained or raised the Diversity Excellence Model score for the agency using the results of the 2009-10 assessment as the baseline.

*Priority 8*—By 31 March 2011 to have delivered specified outputs within resource control totals.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Identity and Passport Service

**The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** The "Identity and Passport Service Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10" has been laid before the House and published today. Copies are available in the Vote Office.

### Pre-charge Detention

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** I am announcing today our intention to renew the current maximum period for pre-charge detention of terrorist suspects for a period of six months, and I have laid a draft order to that effect.

Section 23 of the Terrorism Act 2006 extended the maximum period of detention of terrorist suspects before charge from 14 days to 28 days. Section 25 of that Act says that the 28-day period of detention must be renewed by order if it is to remain in place.

It is vital that we support the police and other agencies in their work to keep us safe from terrorism. We face a serious threat, and the nature of modern international terrorism means that police investigations can be longer and more complex than they have been in the past. At the same time, as a Government we are also committed to safeguarding the rights and liberties of the public.

To ensure this balance is appropriately set, the Government have made clear their commitment to review counter-terrorism legislation, and pre-charge detention will form part of that review. That review is due to report to Parliament in the autumn, but in the meantime the current, and exceptional, 28-day maximum period of pre-charge detention for terrorist suspects will expire on 24 July.

However, while we would not wish to pre-judge the outcome of the review, both parties in the coalition are clear that the 28-day maximum period should be a temporary measure and one that we will be looking to reduce over time.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Reinvigorating Retirement

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb):** The Government are announcing today two key reviews as part of their strategy to reinvigorate retirement.

As set out in the coalition agreement, we have established a review into the timing of the increase in state pension age to 66.

Ensuring an equitable state pension is a key priority for this Government. We are protecting the future value of the basic state pension through the triple guarantee. However life expectancy at age 65 is increasing at a faster rate than was previously projected and we must make sure our pensions system is sustainable. The current fiscal position means it is right to consider the timing of the rise in state pension age to 66.

To support this review I have published today a call for evidence to inform an internal review. This provides an opportunity for people and organisations to submit evidence to help us reach our decision. This call for evidence will close on 6 August and we will publish our response in the autumn. This is to ensure that we are in a position to give as much notice as possible to those who might be affected by an earlier rise in the state pension age than expected.

To help ensure sustainability of the system over the long term the Government will also consider future increases to the state pension age and how best to manage the ongoing challenges of longevity.

As part of our strategy to encourage greater private pension saving we are also reviewing how best we can support the implementation of automatic enrolment into workplace pensions.

The coalition agreement confirms our intention to introduce automatic enrolment, which evidence shows is an effective means of increasing pension saving. However, circumstances have changed since the Pensions Commission published its recommendations in 2005. It is right that we consider whether the approach inherited from the previous Administration strikes the right balance between cost and benefits to individuals, employers and for the taxpayer, particularly in the light of current economic and fiscal conditions.

The review will be conducted by an independent team, led by Paul Johnson, Frontier Economics, David Yeandle OBE, Engineering Employers Federation and Adrian Boulding, Legal and General Group plc.

The terms of reference for the review and the call for evidence are available on the Department's website at: www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/pensions-reform/latest-news. They are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 28 June 2010*

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Implications for US Uplift

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox):** On Friday 25 June, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) completed the transfer of security responsibility for Kajaki in northern Helmand from UK to US forces and the redeployment of the company of UK soldiers based there to Sangin, where they will reinforce our existing presence.

The transfer of Kajaki is part of the reorganisation of ISAF forces in Helmand province and across southern Afghanistan which has been made possible by the significant uplift in Afghan and international troops, particularly US troops. As part of this process, security responsibility for Musa Qala in Helmand transferred to US forces on 27 March 2010, the UK-led Task Force Helmand came under command of the US Marine Corps' 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) on 1 June 2010 and, on the same date, command of the British battle group based in Sangin transferred from Task Force Helmand to the US-led Regimental Combat Team in the north of the province.

As has been the case with previous changes in Helmand, the UK has been consulted throughout ISAF's decision-making process and we welcome the transfer of Kajaki to US forces as enabling ISAF to further optimise the use of its forces in the province.

### Transfer of Detainees (Afghanistan)

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox):** The House will be aware that the Ministry of Defence has been judicially reviewed in the High Court. The claimant in that case, Ms Maya Evans, sought to end the practice of transferring detainees to the appropriate Afghan authorities. The Court's judgment was handed down on Friday 25 June, and I am pleased to say that it found UK practices are lawful.

Our operations in Afghanistan are conducted to protect the national security of the United Kingdom and its people, at home and abroad. It is vital that we address transnational terrorism at its core if we are to safeguard the British people from its effects. In doing so, the ability of our forces to detain those who represent a threat to them, or to the Afghan population, is a vital tool if we are to learn about the insurgency, protect against the improvised explosive device threat, and finally ensure that those responsible are held properly to account. In seeking justice from those who attack, maim and kill our troops, coalition forces and Afghan civilians it is absolutely right that we do so through the Afghan judicial system.

There is no place for the abuse of detainees. We must always act in a manner that is consistent with our values. We took this case very seriously. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provided a vast range of material to assist the Court in what it described as a massive, costly and time-consuming disclosure exercise. I welcome the Court's recognition of the efforts the MOD went to to provide the Court with a full and clear understanding of all the issues raised.

In its judgment, the Court acknowledged the body of material, produced by the international institutions, among others, which covered allegations of mistreatment within the general Afghan system. But it also recognised the specific safeguards and monitoring arrangements in place to provide reassurance about the treatment of transferees, safeguards which will be further reinforced in line with the Court's recommendations. This led to the Court's conclusion that the steps we have taken with the Afghan authorities are sufficient to provide reassurance about their treatment and that UK forces can therefore lawfully continue to transfer UK-captured insurgents to sovereign Afghan authorities.

The British Government, working with international partners under International Security Assistance Force, will also continue to support all efforts to improve further the Afghan judicial system and the rule of law.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Diplomatic Missions/International Organisations (Parking and Traffic Fines)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** In 2009, there were 4,979 recorded outstanding parking and other minor traffic violation fines incurred by diplomatic missions and international organisations in the United Kingdom. These totalled £534,060. In March this year, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office wrote to all diplomatic missions and international organisations concerned, giving them the opportunity to either pay their outstanding fines or appeal against them if they considered that the fines had been issued incorrectly. As a result of subsequent payments totalling £7,760 there remains a total of £526,300 unpaid fines for 2009. The table below details those diplomatic missions and international organisations that have outstanding fines totalling £1,000 or more.

| *Diplomatic Mission/ International Organisation* | *Number of Outstanding Fines (excluding congestion charge)* | *Amount in £* |
|---|---:|---:|
| Kazakhstan | 1399 | £147,880 |
| Afghanistan | 303 | £34,780 |
| United Arab Emirates | 272 | £24,440 |
| China | 211 | £22,760 |
| Cyprus | 209 | £22,540 |
| Turkey | 158 | £17,500 |

| *Diplomatic Mission/ International Organisation* | *Number of Outstanding Fines (excluding congestion charge)* | *Amount in £* |
|---|---|---|
| Saudi Arabia | 159 | £17,000 |
| Albania | 143 | £16,920 |
| Pakistan | 128 | £14,440 |
| France | 118 | £12,560 |
| Nigeria | 104 | £12,460 |
| Sudan | 91 | £10,400 |
| Romania | 95 | £10,000 |
| Egypt | 87 | £9,440 |
| Jordan | 73 | £8,060 |
| Russia | 162 | £7,120 |
| Uzbekistan | 54 | £6,020 |
| Ukraine | 43 | £4,920 |
| Ghana | 45 | £4,880 |
| Guinea | 47 | £4,820 |
| Georgia | 43 | £4,660 |
| Kuwait | 34 | £3,960 |
| Libya | 36 | £3,760 |
| Tunisia | 36 | £3,720 |
| Liberia | 36 | £3.520 |
| Malaysia | 30 | £3,280 |
| Zimbabwe | 29 | £3,160 |
| Algeria | 28 | £3,100 |
| Germany | 29 | £3,020 |
| Bulgaria | 25 | £2,880 |
| Slovenia | 25 | £2,880 |
| USA | 26 | £2,880 |
| Oman | 26 | £2,820 |
| Greece | 24 | £2,680 |
| Kenya | 23 | £2,680 |
| Iraq | 22 | £2,580 |
| North Korea | 22 | £2,320 |
| Iran | 20 | £2,160 |
| Mozambique | 19 | £2,120 |
| South Africa | 21 | £2,060 |
| Mongolia | 18 | £2,000 |
| Yemen | 19 | £2,000 |
| Cote d'Ivoire | 17 | £1,920 |
| Qatar | 16 | £1,880 |
| Syria | 16 | £1,780 |
| Bangladesh | 14 | £1,760 |
| Morocco | 14 | £1,580 |
| Italy | 14 | £1,540 |
| Mexico | 14 | £1,520 |
| Vietnam | 13 | £1,520 |
| Gabon | 13 | £1,460 |
| Mauritius | 13 | £1,460 |
| International Maritime Organisation | 13 | £1,460 |
| Lithuania | 12 | £1,360 |
| Azerbaijan | 12 | £1,280 |
| Belgium | 12 | £1,280 |
| Indonesia | 11 | £1,280 |
| Ethiopia | 12 | £1,240 |
| Bahrain | 14 | £1,220 |
| Benin | 12 | £1,200 |
| Tanzania | 10 | £1,140 |

## Serious and Drink Driving Offences (Diplomatic Immunity)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** In 2009, seventeen serious and drink driving offences allegedly committed by people entitled to diplomatic immunity were drawn to the attention of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. "Serious Offences" are defined as offences that would, in certain circumstances, carry a penalty of 12 months or more imprisonment. Some 25,000 people are entitled to diplomatic immunity in the United Kingdom.

The table below lists those foreign missions whose diplomats allegedly committed serious and drink driving offences and the type of offence from 2005-09.

| | |
|---|---|
| *2005* | |
| *Actual Bodily Harm* | |
| Jordan | 1 |
| *Assault (Domestic Violence)* | |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| *Dangerous Driving* | |
| Turkey | 1 |
| *Driving under the Influence of Alcohol* | |
| Angola | 1 |
| Egypt | 1 |
| Ghana | 1 |
| Lebanon | 1 |
| Peru | 1 |
| Russia | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| *Harassment* | |
| Turkey | 1 |
| *Theft (Shoplifting)* | |
| Egypt | 1 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 1 |
| Zambia | 1 |
| *Theft and Robbery (of Motor Vehicle, Driving without Insurance)* | |
| South Africa | 1 |
| *2006* | |
| *Attempted Robbery* | |
| South Africa | 1 |
| *Deception (Going Equipped to Commit)* | |
| Nigeria | 1 |
| *Driving under the Influence of Alcohol* | |
| Kazakhstan | 2 |
| Belarus | 1 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 1 |
| Kuwait | 1 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Malawi | 1 |
| Oman | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| South Africa | 1 |

*Driving without Insurance*

| | |
|---|---|
| Pakistan | 1 |

*Failure to Stop for Police/Driving without Insurance and Licence*

| | |
|---|---|
| Kazakhstan | 1 |

*Robbery*

| | |
|---|---|
| South Africa | 1 |

*Theft (Obtaining Property by Deception*

| | |
|---|---|
| Ghana | 1 |

*2007*

*Dangerous Driving*

| | |
|---|---|
| Russia | 1 |

*Domestic Assault/Actual Bodily Harm*

| | |
|---|---|
| South Africa | 1 |

*Driving without insurance*

| | |
|---|---|
| Ghana | 1 |

*Driving without Insurance and Driving under the Influence of Alcohol*

| | |
|---|---|
| Malawi | 2 |

*Driving under the Influence of Alcohol*

| | |
|---|---|
| Belarus | 1 |
| Georgia | 1 |
| Hungary | 1 |
| Israel | 1 |
| Italy | 1 |
| *Other | 1 |
| Kazakhstan | 1 |
| Kuwait | 1 |
| Moldova | 1 |
| Nigeria | 1 |
| Peru | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| Turkmenistan | 1 |

*Misrepresentation (Obtaining Insurance by Deception)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Côte d'Ivoire | 1 |

*Robbery and Actual Bodily Harm*

| | |
|---|---|
| Guyana | 1 |

*2008*

*Driving under the Influence of Alcohol*

| | |
|---|---|
| Cameroon | 1 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 1 |
| Morocco | 1 |
| Mozambique | 1 |
| Other* | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| Thailand | 1 |
| Uganda | 1 |
| Vietnam | 1 |

*Theft (Shoplifting)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Cameroon | 1 |

*2009*

*Driving under the Influence of Alcohol*

| | |
|---|---|
| Brazil | 1 |
| Germany | 1 |
| Russia | 1 |
| Tanzania | 1 |
| USA | 1 |
| Vietnam | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| Cameroon | 1 |
| International Maritime Organisation | 1 |

*Driving under the Influence of Alcohol and without Insurance*

| | |
|---|---|
| Bahrain | 1 |

*Driving without Due Care and Attention*

| | |
|---|---|
| Ghana | 1 |

*Human Trafficking*

| | |
|---|---|
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| Sierra Leone | 1 |

*Sexual Assault*

| | |
|---|---|
| Saudi Arabia | 1 |

*Actual Bodily Harm*

| | |
|---|---|
| Nigeria | 1 |

*Theft (Shoplifting)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Gambia | 1 |

*Threatening to Kill*

| | |
|---|---|
| Pakistan | 1 |

*Neglect of a Young Person*

| | |
|---|---|
| Cameroon | 1 |

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*Details have been withheld because the number of diplomatic personnel in the mission(s) concerned is/are so small that disclosure would lead to the identification of the individual concerned. This would breach the data protection rights of that individual, in particular, the first data protection principle, namely, that personal data should be processed fairly. This is because the offences are only alleged to have been committed and have not been proven in a court of law. In these circumstance, section 40 (2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act confer an absolute exemption on disclosure of this information.

### Diplomatic Missions (Outstanding National Non-Domestic Rates Bills)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** The majority of diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom pay the national non-domestic rates requested from them. They are obliged to pay only 6% of the total national non-domestic rates value which represents payment for specific services such as street cleaning, lighting, maintenance and fire services. The total amount outstanding from all diplomatic missions is approximately £574,998. As at 1 April 2010, missions listed below owed over £10,000 in respect of NNDR.

Since a letter about outstanding NNDR bills was sent to missions on 22 February 2010, £26,471.68 has been repaid. Many missions have cleared their bills and some others have entered into arrangements to pay by instalment. Overall, the repayment rate is 96%.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bangladesh | £80,612.37 |
| Bulgaria | £13,022.25 |
| Cameroon | £58,517.78 |
| Cote d’Ivoire | £77,079.12 |
| Equatorial Guinea | £15,782.37 |
| Liberia | £15,388.02 |
| Sierra Leone | £50,790.06 |
| Tanzania | £13,572.67 |
| Tunisia | £26,525.97 |
| Ukraine | £26,103.15 |
| Uzbekistan | £10,287.95 |
| Zimbabwe | £93,414.78 |
| TOTAL | £481,096.49 |

### Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations (Congestion Charge)

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** The number of outstanding fines incurred by the diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom for non-payment of the London congestion charge since its introduction in February 2003 until 29 January 2010 was £36,057,690. The table shows the 57 diplomatic missions and international organisations with outstanding fines totalling £100,000 or more.

| *Country* | *Number of Fines* | *Total Outstanding (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| USA | 35,602 | 3,821,880 |
| Russia | 29,375 | 3,204,900 |
| Japan | 25,434 | 2,766,360 |
| Germany | 24,358 | 2,644,810 |
| Nigeria | 18,576 | 1,964,310 |
| Sudan | 12,123 | 1,263,360 |
| India | 10,977 | 1,205,680 |
| Poland | 9,446 | 1,033,020 |
| Ghana | 8,981 | 970,340 |
| Spain | 7,860 | 864,860 |
| France | 7,960 | 861,100 |
| Kenya | 8,206 | 858,630 |
| Greece | 7,526 | 821,460 |
| Ukraine | 7,092 | 775,440 |
| Romania | 6,911 | 757,300 |
| Tanzania | 7,203 | 753,520 |
| South Africa | 6,333 | 659,740 |
| Algeria | 5,858 | 618,340 |
| Kazakhstan | 5,373 | 575,480 |
| Sierra Leone | 5,066 | 523,900 |
| Korea | 4,363 | 488,340 |
| Bulgaria | 4,256 | 459,040 |
| Hungary | 3,911 | 424,000 |
| Yemen | 3,768 | 407,820 |
| Belarus | 3,598 | 391,080 |
| Slovakia | 3,563 | 390,240 |
| Cyprus | 3,401 | 370,600 |
| Zambia | 3,355 | 358,160 |
| Pakistan | 3,151 | 347,930 |
| Cameroon | 3,091 | 329,420 |
| Zimbabwe | 3,038 | 311,600 |
| Ethiopia | 2,779 | 294,060 |
| Czech Republic | 2,343 | 258,240 |
| Mauritius | 2,370 | 254,240 |
| Namibia | 2,362 | 247,240 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 2,251 | 243,480 |
| Cuba | 2,230 | 234,680 |
| Swaziland | 2,267 | 225,400 |
| Austria | 2,004 | 220,160 |
| Mozambique | 2,035 | 215,220 |
| Belgium | 1,889 | 209,480 |
| Lesotho | 1,927 | 203,180 |
| Denmark | 1,614 | 179,600 |
| Botswana | 1,623 | 175,860 |
| Malta | 1,518 | 165,420 |
| Vietnam | 1,530 | 163,520 |
| Malawi | 1,568 | 163,400 |
| Cote d’Ivoire | 1,564 | 161,080 |
| Afghanistan | 1,411 | 158,220 |
| Egypt | 1,640 | 155,200 |
| Uganda | 1,396 | 149,540 |
| Jamaica | 1,284 | 138,800 |
| Liberia | 1,249 | 135,880 |
| Guinea | 1,324 | 135,820 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1,327 | 129,490 |
| DPR Korea | 1,119 | 116,100 |
| Luxembourg | 925 | 101,720 |

## HEALTH

### Direct Payments for Health Care

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Paul Burstow):** The Government have today authorised the piloting of direct payments for health care, under powers in the Health Act 2009.

This Government want to put patients at the heart of everything the national health service does. Direct payments, and personal health budgets more generally, have great potential to put patients in control, enable integration across health and social care, and improve outcomes.

We have long supported the idea of personal health budgets, and we continue to support the pilot programme.

The Department has initially authorised piloting of direct payments in eight primary care trusts (PCTs) within the personal health budget pilot programme.

More will be authorised as soon as individual PCTs are ready and have in place suitable systems and safeguards. Approved pilot sites will be able to offer direct payments to people across a range of conditions and services, including continuing health care, a number of long-term conditions, mental health, learning disabilities, and end-of-life care.

The personal health budget pilot programme involves around seventy PCTs across England. An independent evaluation will provide evidence on how personal budgets work and how to overcome the technical and cultural challenges involved. The evaluation is due to report in autumn 2012.

The table shows the PCTs initially authorised to offer direct payments.

| *Lead PCT* | *Conditions or services included in pilot* |
|---|---|
| Doncaster PCT | Continuing health care and mental health |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | Continuing health care, end-of-life care, maternity, and mental health |
| Central London (joint bid from Hammersmith and Fulham PCT, Kensington and Chelsea PCT and Westminster PCT) | Continuing health care, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, dementia, diabetes, and mental health |
| Islington PCT | Continuing health care (in limited circumstances, with expansion subject to further approval) |
| Merseyside (Joint bid from Knowsley PCT, Liverpool PCT and Sefton PCT) | Mental health |
| Oxford PCT | Continuing health care and end-of-life care |
| Somerset PCT | Children in transition to adult services, learning disabilities, long-term neurological conditions |
| West Sussex PCT | Carers of people who have recently been diagnosed with dementia, children in transition to adult services, continuing health care |

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Non-EU Economic Migration Limits

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** This afternoon I will make an oral statement to the House on the Government's plans to introduce annual limits on economic migrants from outside of the EU from April 2011; and interim measures being taken to prevent a surge in applications during the interim period.

## JUSTICE

### Judicial Appointments

**The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke):** I am today announcing my intention to review the operation of the judicial appointments process and the structure of those bodies supporting the Lord Chief Justice and me on judicial matters.

The appointment element of the review will look at the end to end appointments process addressing in particular:

- The proper balance between executive, judicial and independent responsibilities.
- Ensuring clarity, transparency and openness.
- Quality and speed of service to applicants and the courts and tribunals the process serves.
- Governance, efficiency and value for money.

The appointments process must fully respect and maintain the independence of the judiciary, and appointment on merit must remain absolutely at the heart of the process. These principles will underpin the review.

In the light of the needs of the judicial appointments process, the Courts and Tribunals Integration Programme and the Government's wider review of arm's length bodies, the review will also consider whether the current structure of judicial arm's length bodies

- best meets the needs of the constitutional settlement, properly protecting judicial independence;
- provides clear accountability; and
- provides the most effective means of delivering a high quality service and value for money.

The review has been agreed with and will be conducted in close consultation with the Lord Chief Justice. I expect the review to report in the autumn.

## PRIME MINISTER

### G8 and G20 Summits

**The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron):** Following the meetings in Canada I am placing the communiqués for the G8 and G20 in the Libraries of both Houses.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 29 June 2010*

## TREASURY

### Child Trust Fund Regulations

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban):** The Government have today laid draft regulations before both Houses, which would reduce Government contributions into child trust funds from August 2010.

The Government announced on 24 May 2010 that they intended to reduce and then stop Government contributions to child trust funds, as part of achieving £6.2 billion of savings from Government spending in 2010-11.

These regulations would reduce Government contributions into child trust funds at birth, and stop Government contributions at age seven, due from August 2010. They would also stop disability payments into child trust funds due from 6 April 2011, but the funding allocated to make disability payments in future years will be redirected to provide additional respite breaks.

The Government will separately introduce a Bill to stop all Government contributions to child trust funds at birth due from January 2011.

### Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (EU-US Agreement)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban):** Following the conclusion of negotiations between the EU and the US, the Council yesterday signed an agreement with the United States that will allow financial messaging data stored in EU territory to be shared with the United States Treasury Department for its terrorist finance tracking programme (TFTP). The Government have opted in to the signing of this agreement.

The TFTP has brought significant security benefits to the EU and to the UK. Leads it has generated have provided valuable contributions to a number of investigations, including: the Bali bombing in 2002, the Van Gogh terrorist-related murder in the Netherlands in 2004, the plan to attack New York's John F. Kennedy airport in 2007, an Islamic Jihad Union plot to attack Germany, the attacks in Mumbai in 2008 and the Jakarta hotel attacks in 2009. This agreement will further increase its effectiveness by imposing a binding requirement on the US Treasury to search the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) data on request from EU member states that comply with the terms of the agreement. It also contains strict yet proportionate data protection provisions.

The Government believe that parliamentary scrutiny of European business is extremely important and regret that, on this occasion, it has not been possible to complete parliamentary scrutiny of this important decision through the appropriate mechanism, as the timetable for the adoption of the agreement was rapid and the parliamentary scrutiny committees in the House of Commons have not yet formed. However, if the UK had not opted in, it could have put the success of the whole agreement in jeopardy.

Treasury Ministers have, of course, provided a full explanatory memorandum on the document to both Houses, and will be taking this issue forward with the scrutiny committees as soon as possible.

### Finance Bill 2010

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke):** The Finance Bill will be published on 1 July.

Explanatory notes on the Bill will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and placed in the Libraries of both Houses on that day. Copies of the explanatory notes will be available on the Treasury's website.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Local Enterprise Partnerships

**The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable):** I, together with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, would like to inform the House that today we have jointly written to local authorities and business seeking outline proposals for local enterprise partnerships.

In the coalition's programme for government we set out that we will support the creation of local enterprise partnerships—joint local authority-business bodies brought forward by local authorities themselves to promote local economic development—to replace regional development agencies (RDAs). This letter is the first step in realising this commitment.

The rationale behind these proposals is to create a more effective economic development structure to drive growth and maintain recovery. The structures we put in place should ensure that the right conditions for growth exist throughout the country.

A copy of the letter has been placed in the House Library.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Planning Reform

**The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark):** Infrastructure is vital to the health and well-being of our nation. It is the backbone of our economy and its proper maintenance and renewal is critical for growth. We need to generate power and deliver it to our homes and businesses. We need ports to import and export goods and modern transport infrastructure to sustain a dynamic and entrepreneurial economy and to improve our quality of life. Without new infrastructure networks we risk the economic recovery of the nation.

Because decisions on new major infrastructure are so important and affect so many people we will be making a number of changes to the way in which policy is established, applications are handled and decisions taken. We will include the necessary measures within primary legislation to be brought forward in the current session of Parliament.

*Abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission*

The Government want a planning system for major infrastructure which is rapid, predictable and accountable. But we do not believe it is right that decisions on major infrastructure applications be taken by an unelected quango. They should be made by Ministers. We will therefore be abolishing the unelected Infrastructure Planning Commission and reintroducing democratic accountability in line with the coalition agreement:

> "We will abolish the unelected Infrastructure Planning Commission and replace it with an efficient and democratically accountable system that provides a fast-track process for major infrastructure projects."

Our intention is therefore to establish a Major Infrastructure Planning Unit as part of the Planning Inspectorate—an existing agency of Communities and Local Government—which will retain the strengths of the streamlined processes and the experience of the Planning Inspectorate. The Government will put these changes into effect as soon as possible. In the interim, we have asked the Infrastructure Planning Commission and the Planning Inspectorate to consider now how they can work together and identify efficiency savings. Further transitional arrangements are set out below.

*National Policy Statements*

We are committed to openness and transparency and it follows that planning decisions should be taken within a clear policy framework, and within clear time limits, making these decisions as predictable as possible. The Government will therefore be pressing ahead with the development of national policy statements and will issue a more detailed statement on them later in the summer.

The Government also want to ensure that national policy statements, and the decisions that will be based upon them, are as robust as possible, thus minimising the risk of successful judicial review, particularly by those wishing to abuse the system. We believe therefore that the decision-making framework for major infrastructure should have the strongest possible democratic legitimacy. That is why we will be ensuring that national policy statements are ratified by Parliament. National policy statements are critically important documents and they should be subject to public consultation with appropriate local and community engagement, and both scrutinised and ratified by Parliament before designation.

*Transitional arrangements*

Until new legislation is in place the Infrastructure Planning Commission will continue in its present role until it is abolished. During this interim period, should an application reach decision-stage and where the relevant national policy statement has been designated, the Infrastructure Planning Commission will decide the application. If an application reaches decision stage and the relevant national policy statement has not been designated, the Infrastructure Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will take the decision.

For those applications under active consideration by the Infrastructure Planning Commission when it is abolished, transitional provisions will enable the examination of such applications to continue without interruption, through a seamless transfer to the new Major Infrastructure Planning Unit. There is no question of applications having to restart the process and we intend that the statutory timetable for decision taking will be no longer than the current regime.

The Government want to have national policy statements in place as rapidly as possible. In particular, we intend to complete the process for making the energy (including nuclear) national policy statements, which are part-way through the scrutiny process, and will bring forward revised final texts and ask Parliament to ratify them. We are still considering how best to take forward the remaining national policy statements under development, and will be publishing a more detailed implementation plan—including transitional arrangements and a revised timetable—later in the summer.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Arm's-length Bodies

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman):** The delivery of public services is at the heart of DEFRA'S role. From flood defences to animal health, from making payments to farmers to conserving biodiversity, DEFRA protects our natural environment, supports British food and farming industries and promotes the green economy.

But DEFRA has a very big network, with over 80 arm's-length bodies. In my first month, I have made it my priority to examine the network critically. In line with the coalition Government's commitments, I am applying the "three Government tests" to each of our bodies: Does it perform a technical function? Does it need to be politically impartial? Does it act independently to establish facts?

I am announcing today the first results of this work.

The Government are committed to improving the quality of life for those living and working in rural areas and intend to put the fair treatment of rural communities at the centre of Government. Ministers will lead rural policy from within my Department; I have decided accordingly to abolish the Commission for Rural Communities as an independent body.

The Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) is a DEFRA-funded non-departmental public body that was established under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act on 1 October 2006.

The Government believe policy advice should be carried out by Departments, not arm's-length bodies. DEFRA will, therefore, reinforce its capacity to undertake rural work within the Department: a strengthened Rural Communities Policy Unit will work across Government to ensure that the interests of rural communities are fully reflected in policies and programmes.

In taking this action, I pay tribute to the commitment and quality of work undertaken by the Commission for Rural Communities, its staff, commissioners and its chairman, the Rev. Dr Stuart Burgess CBE, over the past four years. My Department will continue to work closely with the CRC during the transition to the new arrangements so that we build on its achievements.

The Animal Health Agency and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, are the two principal DEFRA executive agencies which work to combat animal diseases. I intend to merge these two agencies. This will allow us to bring together services, expertise and scientific capability on animal health. It will improve our resilience in delivering important services, including our animal disease emergency response capability and science requirements for animal health. In resource-constrained times, the merger will enable the agencies to create more efficient ways of working, reduce the cost and bureaucracy needed to manage the interfaces between these agencies, DEFRA and the devolved Administrations, and their customers.

The merger of the executive agencies will go ahead shortly, with as little disruption to staff and customers as possible.

A single chief executive will be appointed for the new agency this summer, and will be tasked with working out how to achieve the full integration of the agencies, including structures and ways of working, by the autumn.

In the meantime, both agencies will continue to be led by their chief executives and senior teams. In implementing this change to our arm's-length bodies, the Department will work closely with the Responsibility and Cost Sharing Advisory Group, as well as devolved Administrations and other stakeholders.

Following the principle that Government should do only those things which only Government can do, we are examining how parts of the DEFRA network's assets could be marketed or be run better through the voluntary sector, while protecting key DEFRA outcomes. Further announcements will follow, against the principles outlined above.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Programmes

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague):** The House is aware that I have been conducting a full review of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's spending on programmes. I refer to the reply given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones) on 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, Column 24W.

My aim was threefold: to ensure that FCO programmes deliver the priorities of the new Government; to ensure that they focus on those areas where the FCO itself can make the biggest difference and offer the best possible value for money; and to establish where the FCO can make cuts as part of its contribution to the reduction in public expenditure to which this Government are committed.

I have decided that we will:

Sustain planned spending this financial year on our counter-terrorism and Afghan counter-narcotics programmes, which contribute to some of the UK's most important priorities, and will seek (resources permitting) to maintain FCO programme funding on these issues in future years.

Sustain planned spending this financial year on our bilateral programme funds, which enhance our relationships and influence with key countries around the world, and will seek (resources permitting) to increase this funding in future years.

Maintain a substantial programme of scholarships to bring future decision-takers and opinion-formers to the UK, while professionalising our current arrangements and targeting them on a smaller group of people. We will cut this year's programme by £10 million and seek (resources permitting) to sustain a smaller and more strategic programme in future years. I believe this programme should also attract some further external funding, which will now be explored.

Sustain in future years (resources permitting) the FCO's programme spending in support of the overseas territories, while making a cut of 10% (£630,000) in spending this financial year.

Sustain in future years (resources permitting) the FCO's programme spending in support of counter-proliferation, while making a cut of 10% (£300,000) in spending this financial year.

Sustain in future years (resources permitting) the FCO's programmes on human rights and democracy, reuniting Europe, and in support of the Westminster Foundation For Democracy, while making cuts to these programmes this financial year of 10% each (cuts of £560,000; £380,000; and £300,000 respectively).

Cut the FCO's spending on its low-carbon high-growth programme by around £3 million this financial year and explore alternative sources of funding for the programme for future years. This does not mean the FCO is ending work on these issues: our diplomats will remain fully engaged in the UK's international efforts to promote a low-carbon high-growth economy.

Cut the FCO's programme spending on drugs and crime by £1 million this financial year, end FCO funding in future years, and explore alternative sources of funding for this programme. This does not mean the FCO is ending work on these issues: our diplomats will remain fully engaged in the UK's international efforts to fight drugs and crime which threaten our shores.

Cut our public diplomacy programmes by £1.6 million this financial year, focusing on strategic communications to key overseas audiences, while seeking (resources permitting) to sustain this programme in future years.

Make some adjustments to FCO programme spending on international institutions, cutting £250,000 this financial year, while seeking (resources permitting) to sustain essential support to those institutions in future years.

These decisions will deliver over £18 million of savings this financial year out of total FCO programme spend of some £140 million. The money saved will help sustain the UK's front-line diplomatic work and our global network of posts, and contribute to the FCO's £55 million in-year cuts.

This is only a small part of the work I am leading to ensure that the FCO delivers the best possible service to the UK taxpayer at the lowest possible cost, and contributes to the Government's goal of reducing the budget deficit. Where there is scope for further cuts, efficiencies and reforms to deliver better for Britain, we will make them.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Police Reform

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** I am today setting out some further details of the Government's approach to police reform. Policing governance has become distorted and over-centralised in recent years and the Government are committed to ensuring that accountability and transparency are firmly at the heart of policing.

The first step for reform must be the return of proper operational responsibility to chief constables and their teams and that for this to work effectively there needs to be a redesign of the current performance landscape. The police service needs more freedom from central control—fewer centrally driven targets and less intervention and interference from Government. That is why I am announcing that we are abolishing the centrally imposed target on police forces to improve public confidence and we will scrap the policing pledge. Police forces need to be accountable instead to their communities.

To achieve greater accountability, the public need better information about their police and about local crime. This is why we will make sure that crime data are published at a level that allows the public to see what is happening on their streets, enabling the public to hold the police and other local agencies to account for how they are dealing with problems in their area. We will also require police forces to hold regular "beat meetings" to provide residents with the opportunity to put forward their concerns and hold the police to account.

In the future, the establishment of a directly elected individual at force level, setting the force budget, agreeing the local strategic plan, playing a role in wider questions of community safety and appointing—and if necessary removing—the local chief constable, will strengthen local accountability for policing. We will publish further details on our reform of policing later in the summer, which will assist our discussions with the public and our partners, and inform the Government's preparations for the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill in the autumn.

## TRANSPORT

### Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning):** The Department for Transport has today issued a consultation document on proposals to empower examiners from VOSA with powers to stop commercial vehicles for inspection throughout Great Britain. At present their powers are restricted to England and Wales.

The new powers will help them to ensure that commercial vehicles and their drivers comply with road traffic law. Similar minor additions will be made to Northern Ireland legislation where no comparable powers already exist in relation to the stopping powers for the Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) staff.

I have placed copies of the document in the Libraries of both Houses.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### The Work Programme

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling):** Today the Government begin the first stage of their reform to deliver a 21st century welfare system.

The coalition Government are committed to fighting poverty, supporting the most vulnerable and helping people break the cycle of benefit dependency that has blighted some communities.

We want to establish a system of employment support that treats people with the dignity they deserve.

As announced in the coalition agreement we will radically simplify the back-to- work system by ending the complexity of the previous decade and replacing current schemes with a new Work programme.

The Work programme will provide a coherent package of support for people out of work, regardless of the barriers they face or the benefits they claim.

The Government will look to investors from the private, public and voluntary sectors to provide this support.

This week we will be releasing an advert setting out the parameters of a commercial framework and encouraging private, public and voluntary sector organisations to bid to be part of it.

Once in the framework organisations will compete to supply employment support.

The framework arrangement means we will be able to contract for employment support in a faster, flexible and more efficient way than the current system allows.

It also means Government can be more responsive to economic conditions and local need, which will enable us to let larger, longer contracts, encouraging greater investment and creating the circumstances for a proper rate of return for investors and meaningful social return for the taxpayer.

The Work programme will also provide help for the thousands on incapacity benefits who are able to work.

There are 2.6 million people claiming incapacity benefits.

The Government are committed to providing unconditional support for very sick and disabled people within that group.

But there are people claiming incapacity benefits that can work, and want to work, with our help they will be able to.

In the autumn, starting in Burnley and Aberdeen, we will ask incapacity benefit claimants to attend a work capability assessment. The rest of the country will follow, with reviews taking place when the normal benefit review is due.

The work capability assessment is designed to measure whether someone is able to work. It also allows us to recognise those who need additional support and ensure they get unconditional help.

To this end, we will take forward recommendations[1] to treat people waiting for or between courses of chemotherapy in the same way as those already receiving it.

We will also extend the criteria for people with severe disability due to mental health conditions, meaning fewer very sick people will be asked to attend an assessment.

We will also establish an independent review as required by the Welfare Reform Act 2007, a concession forced on the previous Government jointly by the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives.

The coalition amendment established an independent review, which Professor Malcolm Harrington has agreed to lead, to scrutinise the assessment process. This will ensure people are treated fairly and assessments are transparent. The report will be completed by the end of the year.

These reforms are not just about getting people who are able to work into a job.

These reforms are the first steps towards tackling one of the key drivers of poverty and breaking the intergenerational cycle of worklessness and disadvantage.

Today the coalition Government take a firm but fair hold of the welfare system. This approach will bring about transformational change in the benefits system, helping people leave benefits and work towards a better quality of life for themselves and their families.

We have produced a guide to the framework and copies are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 30 June 2010*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Trawlermen Compensation Scheme

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey):** The Government have today published a statement on the operation of the former Icelandic water trawlermen compensation scheme. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/employment-matters/strategies/trawlermen.

The Government received around 3,400 applications under the new scheme. To date around £3.7 million has been paid or is being paid, to just over 600 successful claimants. We are currently considering how best to take forward around 100 cases where claimants have been unable to provide copies of their fishing records. Around 400 appeals have been received to date, of which around 200 have been processed.

We believe that the new scheme delivers the Government's objective of compensating former trawlermen for the loss of their livelihoods following the cod war treaties of the 1970s, and that we have met in full the recommendations made by the parliamentary ombudsman in her 2007 report. Total payments of around £60 million have now been made to trawlermen under this and the two previous compensation schemes, and we believe this issue has now been brought to a successful close.

## TREASURY

### United Kingdom Debt Management Office

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening):** The United Kingdom Debt Management Office (DMO) has today published its business plan for the year 2010-11. Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the DMO's website, www.dmo.gov.uk.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Local Government (Doncaster)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill):** On 2 June my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, announced to the House a package of intensive measures which he was proposing to turn around the governance of Doncaster metropolitan borough council after 15 years of poor governance and dysfunctional politics. He gave the authority until 23 June to make any representations on the draft direction he was proposing.

Having now given careful consideration to the representations received, we note that the authority accepts intervention is appropriate, and we recognise the commitment shown from the mayor, members and officers which has begun to address some of the outstanding issues.

I confirm we remain satisfied that there is a strong case for intervention at Doncaster metropolitan borough council, and accordingly, I have issued a direction under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999 specifying the form of intervention, together with an explanatory memorandum.

The direction requires the authority to take specific actions, specify certain functions will be exercised by the Secretary of State and specify that certain other functions will be exercised by commissioners appointed by the Secretary of State.

As empowered by the direction we have from 1 July 2010 appointed Rob Vincent to be the chief executive at Doncaster metropolitan borough council. He is an experienced and well respected chief executive, currently at Kirklees council, who will be at Doncaster for a period of 18 months. He will also make recommendations to me by 31 October 2010 as to the appointment of a monitoring officer and chief finance officer, which the direction empowers us to make.

We have also as specified in the direction appointed three commissioners—Sir John Harman, Jessica Crowe, and Julie Kenny. They will be responsible for any matter referred to them by statutory officers due to concerns about the authority's approach. They will also be responsible for senior officer appointments, discipline and dismissal. I am delighted that each has agreed to make their expertise available to the authority to draw on and assist them in their recovery.

The direction also requires the authority to co-operate with a recovery board comprising the commissioners, chief executive, children's board chair and five other experts who we will be appointing to provide external support and challenge to the authority and monitor and report on the progress of recovery.

I believe the intervention package we have now put in place will secure the progress that Doncaster has already begun to make, and enable necessary further significant improvements to be made. We are very grateful to the Local Government Association and others within the local government sector who have helped in the development of this intervention package, and to Jo Miller, deputy chief executive at the Local Government Association, who stepped in and provided stability as the acting chief executive at the authority during transition.

The mayor, members and officers at Doncaster, with the support this intervention package gives, now have the opportunity to address, and once and for all resolve, the long standing problems at that council so that it can provide the services and local leadership the people of Doncaster have the right to expect.

Copies of the direction and explanatory memorandum have been placed in the Library of the House.

## DEFENCE

### Defence Support Group

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff):** The following key targets have been agreed with the chief executives of the Defence Support Group (DSG) for the financial year 2010-11. They are designed to drive continued improvements in the agency's performance and are as follows:

DEFENCE SUPPORT GROUP (DSG)

*KT1: Quality*

> Deliver an improved quality performance by achieving fewer than three attributable major customer concerns within DSG's air business and implementing a new system to record "major" customer concerns for the land business and set a baseline against which future years' targets can be set.

*KT2: Financial Performance*

> To achieve at least a 3.5% return on capital employed.

*KT3: Efficiency*

> To develop a phased DSG capacity and capability optimisation plan.

*KT4: Delivery*

> To meet delivery targets as agreed with the customer:
>
> (a) *Air Business*—to achieve 95% of customer programmes;
>
> (b) *Land Business*—to meet customer agreed targets for delivery schedules on critical programme lines (94% September 2010, 94% December 2010 and 97% March 2011) and land load tasks (92% of urgent specified tasks, 85% of routine tasks).

MET OFFICE

The Ministry of Defence plans shortly to release information on Met Office financial year 2010-11.

## JUSTICE

### Family Justice Review

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly):** My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Education, the Minister with responsibility for children and families, the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) and I wish to make the following statement to the House about our plans for a comprehensive review of the family justice system.

My hon. Friend and I have asked David Norgrove to build on his preliminary work in this area to undertake a comprehensive review of the family justice system. This review will examine both public and private law cases. In public law this means looking at how the courts, with other agencies, manage cases involving children and the public care system. In private law this means looking at contact and residence disputes between family members and will include considering how to increase the use of mediation when couples break up, and how best to provide greater access rights to non-resident parents and grandparents.

The review will also examine the processes involved in granting divorces and awarding ancillary relief, but will not extend to the law as it relates to the grounds for divorce or the amounts of ancillary relief that should be awarded.

The terms of reference have set this out in more detail and a copy has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The panel is today launching their call for evidence. The panel wishes to hear from children, families, professionals and representative groups involved in the family justice system. A series of questions have been posed to frame responses; a copy of these questions has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 1 July 2010*

## CABINET OFFICE

### Ministerial Responsibilities

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude):** The new "List of Ministerial Responsibilities" has been published today. Copies have been placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be sent to each hon. Member's office in this House.

The list can also be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/government-business/government-ministers-responsibilities.aspx

## DEFENCE

### Armoured Vehicle Contract

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff):** I am pleased to announce a major contract award in favour of General Dynamics (UK) for the prototyping and demonstration of a new armoured combat vehicle intended to replace the existing combat vehicle reconnaissance (tracked) (CVR(T)). This award represents a major step towards equipping the British Army with a fleet of new highly capable, modern specialist tracked combat vehicles, able to conduct a wide range of military tasks representative of both current and anticipated operational scenarios. Initially this contract will focus on an improved reconnaissance variant called Scout but will also demonstrate a common base platform which will be the basis for other essential variants, and offer logistical commonality and benefit.

We have chosen a tracked vehicle design, that builds upon a mature platform already in service with other European nations, but which offers growth to meet the UK's current and anticipated requirements over the next 30 years. As a result, the specialist vehicle family will benefit from increased protection, modern systems, improved fire power and, importantly, greater survivability over existing vehicles, and will be optimised for deployment world wide.

GDUK is based near Newport, Gwent, where the main programme management team will be situated; their proposed manufacturing solution has a high UK content (over 70%) with many UK-based subcontractors involved. Skills required are largely high-value engineering design skills, which will help sustain and develop the UK defence engineering sector.

This contract only commits MOD to the demonstration phase at this time. Commitment to full production will not happen until around the middle of this decade, when sufficient evidence has been gathered from the trialling of prototypes and other demonstration work to ensure the vehicle designs are optimised and fully fit for purpose. This second decision point also allows SDSR to inform whole fleet numbers, based on the future size and shape of the British Army, before the major investment decision is taken.

The award of this contract, to progress the replacement of the current CVR (T) fleet, demonstrates commitment to long-term equipment planning for the Army. This will be welcome news to our soldiers.

## HEALTH

### Quality Accounts

**The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley):** This Government's ambition is for health outcomes—and our national health service—to be as good as any in the world. To achieve this, the NHS will need to focus on providing high-quality care, led by empowered clinicians, with the patient at the centre of the service. The NHS, free of bureaucratic interference and the tick-box culture, will make quality improvement the central principle along the entire care pathway, integrated with a reformed social care service.

A quality account is an annual report to the public from providers of NHS healthcare services about the quality of their services. It allows clinicians to demonstrate their commitment to continuous, evidence-based quality improvement. By making boards and leaders of healthcare organisations visibly accountable for service quality, in the same way that they are responsible for finances, quality accounts put what matters to patients at the heart of the NHS.

Quality accounts require boards and leaders of healthcare organisations to review quality across all of the healthcare services they offer, and to identify objectives for continuous quality improvement that meet the needs of the public they serve. They are therefore a tool to empower providers and patients to produce the best possible outcomes of care.

The first quality accounts—for providers of acute national health services—have now been published. They are available from the providers themselves, and from the www.nhs.uk website.

We want staff, patients and the wider public to read their local providers' quality accounts, and then make their views known to the boards and leaders of those providers. The public's input to their local quality accounts has demonstrated a great willingness to get involved—which provides a clear spur for boards of provider organisations to focus their attention on improving patient care.

This is a step towards focusing the NHS on continuous quality improvement, and allowing patients to see the information they need to make an informed judgment about that commitment to quality improvement. More needs to be done to standardise our definition, measurement and reporting of service quality—along lines that clinicians will recognise as evidence-based and be accountable for. We need to drive up the range and quality of information published, to enable patients to exercise choice. Quality accounts help with this transformation.

For the future, quality accounts will evolve to reflect the Government's aim of developing a new culture of leadership and responsibility across the NHS. Following a formal evaluation over the summer, we will consult on how the potential of quality accounts can be better realised, including by:

relating the content to emerging outcome measures and quality standards;

building in third party assurance through external audit; and

extending quality accounts to primary and community care providers, following the evaluation of the pilots in the North-East and East Midlands strategic health authorities.

Proposals will be consulted on in the autumn, with updated regulations and guidance to follow later in the year.

### H1N1 Pandemic

**The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley):** I have today placed a copy of the report of the independently chaired review of the United Kingdom response to the 2009 H1N1 ("swine flu") pandemic in the Library of the House. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office. The review was jointly commissioned, and the chair appointed, by all four of the UK Health Ministers in March 2010. Dame Deirdre Hine chaired the review.

The four UK Health Ministers set up this independent review with a remit to review the appropriateness and effectiveness of the UK strategy for responding domestically to the swine flu pandemic, and make recommendations for any future influenza pandemic. The review was not asked to comment on operational matters.

I would like to thank Dame Deirdre Hine and her team for their work and I welcome her report and recommendations. I will take these into account, alongside financial and operation considerations, and other research evidence, when reviewing our future pandemic plans in the national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic.

I would like to express the Government's thanks to everyone who has assisted and advised on the response to the swine flu pandemic.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Turks and Caicos Islands

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell):** Following the last Government's statement about the situation in TCI in October 2009, I would like to update the House. The financial situation in TCI has worsened to the point where it was not possible for its Government to meet their June financial commitments, including payment of public sector salaries. Without immediate UK support, TCI would fall further into economic crisis.

Following discussions with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, I have decided to provide a temporary package of financial support. This support is conditional on the TCI Government strengthening their capacity and systems to manage their public finances, and balancing their budget within the next three years. We are finalising the details of the package, which we want to put in place together with commercial lenders over the coming months. We intend these arrangements to be at or near zero cost to Her Majesty's Government over the medium term.

In order to address the immediate shortfall, we last week agreed a short-term loan of up to £10 million to help meet unavoidable commitments including staff salaries for the police, health and education services. This loan will be repaid in full as soon as the package outlined above is in place. Our aim is to restore and firmly embed the principles of sound financial management, sustainable development and good governance. This should help rebuild confidence in TCI and its ability to manage its public finances.

## TRANSPORT

### EU Transport Council

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond):** I attended the second Transport Council of the Spanish presidency in Luxembourg on 24 June.

The Council adopted a decision to sign a protocol amending the 2007 Air Transport Agreement with the United States. I noted the UK's support for the decision and that we would look forward to further co-operation and reform in the future under the mechanisms set down in the agreement, particularly with regard to the liberalisation of investment opportunities in airline operators. The protocol itself was signed by the presidency on behalf of the EU, by Ministers on behalf of the member states, and by the US ambassador to Luxembourg and the US Assistant Transportation Secretary for Aviation on behalf of the US.

The Commission updated Ministers on the work requested by the extraordinary Transport Council on 4 May on the topic of the volcanic ash cloud. The Commission reported that there was ongoing technical work in refining the limit values that would provide a definition of a safe environment for flying and on adopting new mechanisms and approaches for co-ordinating action at the EU level. Guidance had been produced on how passenger rights legislation should be applied and work was ongoing with respect to a European mobility plan. In respect of state aid, the Commission noted that the treaty opens the possibility for member states to compensate airlines, but to date no member state had in fact made a formal request for state aid clearance, nor had any draft proposals been presented to the Commission. I noted that more technical work was needed to refine limit values and that there was a need to maintain pressure in order to establish safe tolerance levels. I further noted that there was an opportunity to pool efforts for conducting research flights. Although we acknowledged the losses suffered by business as a result of this event, I indicated that in current circumstances, with constrained budgets, the UK would not wish to raise expectations that financial assistance would be forthcoming. While passenger protection during the closure of airspace was vital, I asked the Commission to review Regulation 261/2004, on passenger rights, in light of the European Court of Justice decision of November 2009 which has resulted in some perverse and disproportionate consequences with respect to the financial impact on airlines of having to compensate passengers for delayed flights.

Council conclusions were adopted unanimously on the Commission's Urban Mobility Action Plan, which sets out a framework of initiatives to promote integrated policies and optimise urban mobility. The conclusions support the development of sustainable urban mobility policies, while maintaining the principle of subsidiarity.

The presidency noted that the European Council had recently agreed its Europe 2020 strategy for growth, and invited views on how transport could contribute to the strategy. The Commission stated that, although it did not feature prominently in the Europe 2020 package, transport was important for growth, and the strategy provided a suitable basis for the Commission to take forward its work on transport. A White Paper would be forthcoming before the end of the year which would include views on intelligent transport systems, multi-modality, and alternative sources of funding. I noted that the UK's overarching national objectives for transport were to support economic growth and contribute to the 2020 carbon reduction targets. Additionally, I stressed the importance of having competitive transport services, and the need to avoid excessive regulatory burdens on business.

Following the Detroit terrorist incident at the end of 2009, the Commission presented its communication on the use of security scanners at EU airports. I stated that EU restrictions which currently prevented the effective and efficient use of security scanners needed to be removed and urged the Commission to bring forward the necessary legislative proposals to facilitate this, in order to allow scanners to be used as a primary method of screening at UK airports.

The Commission informed the Council of the adoption of the Galileo Action Plan in June and that the focus would now be on co-ordination of efforts, with regulatory proposals only being bought forward if necessary.

During a further discussion on the Galileo programme, I informed Ministers that, following the success of a joint bid with France to host the Galileo Security Monitoring Centre, the UK would be withdrawing its bid to host the Galileo Supervisory Authority and would instead support the bid of the Czech Republic to host this entity in Prague. I also informed Ministers that the UK would not support any additional funding requests for the Galileo programme, within the current financial perspective.

The Commission announced that it intended to withdraw the proposal to exclude self-employed drivers from the scope of the 2002 Road Transport Working Time Directive following the recent rejection of the proposals by the European Parliament. With support from the other delegations, I urged the Commission to continue with efforts to seek a compromise solution with the Parliament.

# Petitions

*Monday 21 June 2010*

## OBSERVATIONS

### ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

#### Incinerator (Croydon)

*The Petition of the people of Croydon,*

Declares that the construction of an incinerator on Beddington Lane, Sutton, would not be in Croydon's interests.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to investigate alternative sites for the incinerator or alternative means of disposing of waste in an environmentally friendly manner.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 30 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 789 .]

[P000811]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, received 18 June 2010:*

The Government are working towards a zero-waste economy. The revised Waste Framework Directive sets out an order of priority in which waste should be managed. Preventing waste, and reusing and recycling as much as possible of what is produced takes precedence, but there will always be some residual waste that cannot be reused, recycled or composted. Studies have shown that recovering energy from this waste, by conventional incineration and other more advanced technologies such as gasification, results in less greenhouse gas emissions compared to the alternative of disposal in landfill.

Producing energy from this waste also counts towards our renewable energy targets by displacing fossil fuel power generation.

It is the responsibility of local authorities to decide how waste is managed in their respective areas. Local authorities need to be free to procure technologies that can contribute to an integrated solution for local waste. It is the role of the relevant local planning authority to consider the planning application, ensuring that local planning policies are adhered to.

In deciding which locations to identify for waste facilities in their Local Development Plan documents, waste planning authorities should assess their suitability against established criteria. These criteria will include the physical and environmental constraints on development, existing and proposed neighbouring land uses, and any significant adverse environmental impacts on environmental quality. It is important, however, that any strategies and plans do not prejudice the achievement of local or national waste management targets, and to ensure that options for reuse, recycling and composting are explored first.

South London Joint Waste Development Plan Document:

Croydon, Kingston, Merton and Sutton are working together to prepare the South London Waste Plan. There have been three stages of consultation on the plan. The most recent consultation, covering Additional Sites, closed in March 2010. It is intended that the final version of the South London Waste Plan will be published for consultation in October-November 2010 and submitted in February 2011.

All waste facilities are subject to environmental monitoring and regulation by the Environment Agency. Emissions from municipal comply, with stringent standards applied through the Waste Incineration Directive (WID). The directive applies to all incineration technologies and limits, as far as practicable, pollution by emissions into air, soil, surface and groundwater, and the resulting risks to human health, from the incineration of waste. The Environment Agency requires that such plants monitor a range of pollutant substances continuously.

If the former hon. Member has general concerns around the emissions levels of modern waste facilities I would point him to two recent reports, by the Health Protection Agency September 2009 and by Professor Jim Bridges February 2010. Both independent reports reach the same conclusion that there is no significant risk to public health from incinerator emissions.

The South London Waste Partnership has been allocated private finance initiative (PFI) credits for their waste management solution. It must be noted that when authorities apply for PFI credits, they have to demonstrate how their proposal will support the whole waste hierarchy—from increasing recycling and composting rates, to improving waste minimisation and increasing diversion from landfill. All projects are expected to consider the carbon footprint of their technology choice, and are encouraged to achieve the greatest carbon benefits.

# Petitions

*Wednesday 30 June 2010*

## OBSERVATIONS

### ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Energy Costs (Highlands and Islands)

*The Petition of concerned energy users in the Highlands and Islands,*

Declares that the below Petitioners are concerned about the energy costs faced by households without access to the gas main, and the large rise in numbers facing acute fuel poverty this winter.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to target emergency financial help at those who rely on heating oil, LPG or solid fuel to match the support currently provided through the six biggest gas and electricity providers.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Charles Kennedy, Official Report,* 10 March 2010; Vol. 507, c. 400 .]

[P000752]

*The Petition of concerned energy users in the Highlands and Islands,*

Declares that the below Petitioners are concerned about the energy costs faced by households without access to the gas main, and the large rise in numbers facing acute fuel poverty this winter.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to target emergency financial help at those who rely on heating oil, LPG or solid fuel to match the support currently provided through the six biggest gas and electricity providers.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Danny Alexander, Official Report,* 10 March 2010; Vol. 507, c. 400 .]

[P000753]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change:*

The Government have sympathy with the difficulties faced by off-grid energy consumers, which is why we are committed to seek to extend protection and support to off-grid energy consumers. This will need to be achieved in a way that is affordable in the current financial climate.

Around 13% of households in England, 19% in Wales, and 12% in Scotland do not have access to the gas network, these customers rely on fuels such as mains electricity, heating oil and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to heat their homes. Higher heating costs means that off-gas households have a higher propensity to be fuel poor, latest statistics suggesting that around 23% of off-gas grid households are fuel poor compared with around 12% of households that have a gas connection.

The recent rise in the price of heating oil and LPG around the world is a cause for concern for many customers off the gas grid. This year we have witnessed an increase in the price of heating oil, both wholesale and retail. The evidence we have shows that recent rises in heating oil prices have been broadly in line with rises in the cost of crude oil, from which it is obtained. There have recently been changes to address issues in the LPG market. As a result of concerns about competition in the market for domestic bulk LPG, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) made a market investigation reference to the Competition Commission (CC) in July 2004. In June 2006, the CC published a report which said that difficulties in switching supplier have inhibited competition. The CC has subsequently devised a package of remedies and has imposed them through two Orders on the industry. The changes were intended to make it easier to switch supplier, and to address the issue of price transparency, as LPG suppliers are required by Orders to provide price quotes on their web sites and by telephone to consumers. The two Orders implementing these remedies have now come into force, and the OFT is monitoring their effectiveness.

There are currently various other ways in which support has been provided to vulnerable consumers and those not connected to the gas grid. The current voluntary agreement with the big six energy suppliers, under which they provide discounted tariffs, known as social tariffs, means that vulnerable customers who are eligible for these tariffs and who may also be off the gas grid, can receive help with their bills from their electricity supplier. Extending the voluntary agreement to the LPG, heating oil and solid fuel markets could be potentially damaging in the light of current market conditions. It would require distributors to price their fuel at well below cost for eligible customers, and the cost of the tariff may need to be subsidised by other consumers paying already high prices. There could also be unintended consequences, for example companies withdrawing from the market to concentrate on other areas such as jet fuel supply. This risks reducing competition and could lead to higher prices for consumers. Ofgem have made some progress in their endeavours to connect vulnerable households to the gas network. Through the pricing round that they regulate, Ofgem have encouraged the large Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs) to connect deprived communities to the network. All four GDNs have now set up partnership agreements with agencies that help deliver energy efficiency programmes. This will allow the network to be extended to households in fuel poverty and homes within the priority group for the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) provided they are within a gas network owners licence area. This includes the Highlands, but unfortunately not the islands as they are not within a gas network area. In total up to 20,000 households could be connected between now and 2013 via this scheme. In addition to gas connection these partnership arrangements will provide help and financial support for central heating and other energy efficiency measures.

These are important steps but the Government recognise that more needs to be done. Going forward we will be considering a number of different ways to help people off the gas grid, particularly those who are fuel poor. Options to be explored include the further roll out of household energy efficiency measures and/or proposals to promote renewable heating.

I am grateful to the petitioners for raising the issue of the costs faced by consumers off the gas network, they may rest assured that the Government share their concerns and are determined to ensure all energy consumers get a fair deal.

### Wind Farms (Mid Wales)

*The Humble Petition of Robert A Robinson,*

Sheweth,

that the Communities of Mid Wales (in particular Welshpool, Newtown, Guilsfield and Montgomery) are deeply concerned about the effect of the transportation of materials for the building of wind farms in Mid Wales and in particular the effects on the towns mentioned over a sustained period.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House will call upon the Government to ensure that a public inquiry into this matter is held before any wind farm development is approved or allowed to take place.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Lembit Öpik, Official Report, 23 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 217 .]*

[P000774]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change:*

The Government recognise the importance of increasing the development of renewable sources of energy. At the same time it remains crucial that the impacts from such developments are assessed fully.

Where an application for consent to construct and operate a wind farm has been made under s36 of the Electricity Act 1989, a public inquiry into the application is mandatory if the relevant planning authority (Powys County Council in this case) objects. Even if the relevant planning authority does not object, Ministers have the discretionary power to call for a public inquiry if they consider it appropriate in the light of objections received.

When a public inquiry is held, a statement of the matters, which seem to Ministers to be relevant to their consideration of the application, is issued in advance. These matters could include transportation impacts in connection with the construction of the wind farm. The views of those objecting would be taken into account, together with all other relevant factors, in identifying these matters.

Even if a public inquiry is not held, objectors' views are of course still taken into account in reaching a decision on any application.

I am aware that Powys County Council, the Welsh Assembly Government, Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency and the developers concerned are considering transport issues raised by wind farm applications in Mid Wales.

Applications for wind farms made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 will be considered by the relevant local planning authority. The local planning authority would similarly consider transportation issues in their assessment of such applications.

As the consideration of transport issues, including cumulative impacts, is part of the normal planning application process for each wind farm, and the legislation provides various opportunities for public inquiries to take place as part of that process where appropriate, I do not believe that it is necessary to hold a separate inquiry across a number of applications solely into transportation issues as requested in the petition. This view is taken purely in response to the petition and does not represent any form of decision in relation to any of the relevant applications (either as regards the holding of public inquiries into them as part of the planning application process or any other matters raised by the applications).

# Petitions

*Thursday 1 July 2010*

## OBSERVATIONS

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Mr Mohammed El Sharkawi

*The Petition of the people of Croydon,*

Declares that Mohammed El Sharkawi has been imprisoned in Eygpt without trial for 15 years despite 16 court orders issued supporting his release, and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention deeming his incarceration unlawful.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to hold talks with the Egyptian Administration to ensure Mr Mohammed El Sharkawi is at last brought to a fair and just trial.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Andrew Pelling, Official Report*, 7 April 2010; Vol. 508, c. 41P .]

[P000823]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:*

The Government's approach to foreign policy is based on a belief in freedom, human rights and democracy for all. We will always speak up for these values.

We are concerned about the circumstances of Mr Mohammed El Sharkawi's detention in Egypt. We believe Mr El Sharkawi is one of many administrative detainees who continue to be held indefinitely and without charge in Egypt under the provisions of the persisting State of Emergency. Regrettably, the State of Emergency was extended for a further two years on 11 May 2010.

We will continue to press the Egyptian Government to address a wide range of human rights issues including arbitrary detention. We will encourage Egypt to accept and fully implement the recommendations of February's United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review, including Egypt's commitment to put an end, as soon as possible, to the State of Emergency which has been in place since 1981 and to ensure that the provisions of future anti-terrorism law do not impose restrictions on the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms that are contrary to international human rights standards.

Our Embassy in Cairo will continue to raise Mr El Sharkawi's case with local civil society and humanitarian organisations.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 21 June 2010*

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Church of England: Rivers

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners whether the Church Commissioners own navigation rights over any navigable rivers; and if he will make a statement. [3164]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** As far as I am aware, the Church Commissioners do not own any special navigation rights. By way of a statement, where they own a river or part thereof, they own the usual rights of access or, where applicable, fishing or mooring rights. However these rights do not override the general right of the public to navigate.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have been killed by drones operated by UK forces in Afghanistan in each of the last five years. [1526]

**Dr Fox:** The Ministry of Defence does not record figures for insurgent or civilian casualties in Afghanistan because of the immense difficulty and risks that would be involved in collecting robust data.

Every effort is made to avoid civilian casualties and we do investigate all claims of civilian fatalities brought to our attention. Any that are the result of action by UK armed forces are always a matter of profound regret.

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what districts in Helmand Province the UK will have lead responsibility for security after General Mills assumes command of Regional Command (South West). [2147]

**Dr Fox** *[holding answer 14 June 2010]:* Alongside our Afghan partners in Combined Forces Helmand, the UK has lead responsibility for security in Lashkar Gah, Nahr-E Saraj and parts of Nad-E Ali district. UK troops reporting to the US Marine Corps Regimental Combat Team 2 working alongside their Afghan partners in Combined Force Sangin also have responsibility for the majority of Kajaki and Sangin districts.

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from what budgets funding will be drawn to double the operational allowance for armed forces personnel serving in Afghanistan. [2780]

**Dr Fox** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* The operational allowance is drawn in part from the Government Reserve, and in part from the core Defence budget. This reflects the priority this Government places on repairing the Military Covenant and properly supporting our armed forces in Afghanistan. It also acknowledges that although the MOD budget has been protected in 2010-11, it is vital that all Departments prioritise resources to the front line and assist in the key task of reducing the debt inherited by the new Government.

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fatalities of Welsh service personnel there have been in Afghanistan since the commencement of military operations in that country. [2906]

**Dr Fox:** Data on the place of birth of all military personnel are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many injuries there have been to Welsh members of the armed forces in Afghanistan since the commencement of military operations in that country; and how many of those members of the armed forces who were injured were transferred to the UK for treatment. [2907]

**Dr Fox:** Data on the place of birth of all military personnel are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the UK's contribution will be to the forthcoming surge in the Kandahar area of Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [2920]

**Dr Fox** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* The combined ISAF and Afghan mission in Kandahar province aims to increase the presence of the Afghan Government and increase security in targeted areas to allow the Government to provide essential services for the local population.

The number of Afghan and ISAF forces has increased to provide deeper security and governance in Kandahar City and wider districts. This will be followed by further expansion of ISAF troops later this summer. Our contribution as part of ISAF in that area continues to include the core headquarters staff of Regional Command (South) for which the command will pass, as planned, to the US later this year.

As the Prime Minister said in his statement to the House on 14 June, this Government will provide regular updates to the House on the progress we are making in Afghanistan.

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) with reference to the Prime Minister's announcement of 10 June 2010, what estimate he has made of the number of additional counter-improvised explosive devices teams the additional £67 million will fund; [3172]

(2) with reference to the Prime Minister's announcement of 10 June 2010, how the additional £67 million to be provided to counter-improvised explosive devices (IEDs) will be allocated between expenditure on *(a)* armoured vehicles and *(b)* counter-IED teams. [3173]

**Dr Fox:** The allocation of up to an additional £67 million from the reserve to support the campaign to counter the improvised explosive device (IED) threat in Afghanistan, announced by the Prime Minister on 10 June, will make a considerable contribution to operational capability. For reasons of operational security, I am not able to comment on the number of counter-IED (C-IED) teams in theatre. However, the additional funding announced by the Prime Minister will allow us to equip a significant increase in that number. The additional funds include approximately £40 million for more protected vehicles for use by our C-IED teams; the remainder will be used to enhance other critical capabilities, including more remote control vehicles, and enhancements to our military working dog capability.

### Aircraft Carriers

**Mr Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any Minister in his Department examined the break clauses on the aircraft carrier contract *(a)* on their first day in office and *(b)* subsequently. [2987]

**Peter Luff:** The Secretary of State announced on his first day in office that the Ministry of Defence would conduct a Strategic Defence and Security Review to review all aspects of defence capability. As part of that ongoing work all equipment programmes are subject to review and re-approval scrutiny.

Once this review is complete, Ministers will be examining in detail the mechanisms for implementing the review's outcomes.

### Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department *(a)* has allocated in the last five years and *(b)* intends to allocate in the next five years to the King's Centre for Defence Medicine; and if he will make a statement. [2635]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 15 June 2010]:* The question on the funding of King's Centre for Defence Medicine is presumed to be referring to the work of King's Centre for Military Health Research with whom, in 2003, the MOD commissioned research into the health of military personnel deployed to Iraq. In 2006, the study was extended for a further three years and broadened to include all subsequent Iraq deployments as well as deployments to Afghanistan. This research programme now follows a cohort of over 20,000 serving and former members of the armed forces. Earlier this year the study was extended for a further three years to maintain the database and further explore the data obtained in phases one and two.

MOD funding to the King's Centre for Military Health Research to conduct the Health and Wellbeing Survey since 2003 and going forward is as follows (exclusive of VAT):

| *Contract period* | *Funding (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| May 2003 to May 2006 | 2.585 |
| September 2006 to January 2010 | 2.310 |
| February 2010 to January 2013 | 1.260 |

Phases one and two have shown that the health and wellbeing of the UK armed forces is in general good and that there was no overall significant increase in mental ill-health as a result of operational deployment, although effects were seen in both reservists and those in combat roles.

### Armed Forces: Pensions

**Mr Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether ex-servicemen's *(a)* war and *(b)* occupational pensions are suspended during any period of imprisonment in the UK; [3354]

(2) which organisations or Government departments are responsible for maintaining records of the suspension of ex-servicemen's *(a)* war and *(b)* occupational pensions; [3355]

(3) how many *(a)* war and *(b)* occupational pensions of ex-servicemen were suspended at the most recent date for which figures are available. [3356]

**Dr Fox:** Under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) pensions are not normally stopped on imprisonment. A pension could be withheld at the point of leaving the armed forces if the individual was going direct to jail for at least 10 years for acts such as treason or breach of the Official Secrets Acts. Post service, it is possible, at the discretion of the Secretary of State, that a pension could be forfeited in very particular circumstances, but the position of dependants would also be considered.

Under the War Pension Scheme (WPS) pensions are normally withheld if the term of imprisonment is more than 12 months or detention in psychiatric facilities as a result of a criminal conviction. The pension is restored upon release and twelve months of basic pension arrears paid. Where hardship can be shown up to half pension can be paid to dependants. Guaranteed income payments made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) are not stopped during a term of imprisonment.

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency is responsible for administration of the AFPS, the WPS and the AFCS and details of suspension are held against the individual's records. No AFPS pensions are known to be in suspension. The total number of WPS pensions in suspension is not held in a reportable format and the number could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Private Education

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 248-49W, on departmental private education, how many service personnel of each rank qualified for assistance under the continuity of education allowance in each year; and how much was spent on each educational establishment which provides places funded under the scheme in each year. [3178]

**Mr Robathan:** The number of service personnel in each rank who received continuity of education allowance during financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 was as follows:

*Financial year 2007-08*

| *Army rank or equivalent* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Lt/2nd Lt | 10 |
| Capt | 620 |
| Maj | 1,070 |
| Lt Col | 1,140 |
| Col | 470 |
| Brig | 180 |
| Maj Gen | 40 |
| Lt Gen | 10 |
| Gen | [1]— |
| Pte (Class 1-3) | 40 |
| L/Cpl | 40 |
| Cpl | 360 |
| Sgt | 660 |
| S/Sgt | 720 |
| WO2 | 360 |
| WO1 | 290 |
| Total | 6,010 |

*Financial year 2008-09*

| *Army rank or equivalent* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Lt/2nd Lt | 10 |
| Capt | 610 |
| Maj | 1,040 |
| Lt Col | 1,150 |
| Col | 480 |
| Brig | 160 |
| Maj Gen | 40 |
| Lt Gen | 10 |
| Gen | [1]— |
| Pte (Class 1-3) | 40 |
| L/Cpl | 40 |
| Cpl | 370 |
| Sgt | 640 |
| S/Sgt | 710 |
| WO2 | 400 |
| WO1 | 280 |
| Total | 5,990 |

[1] Fewer than 5.

*Notes:*

1. Where personnel have been promoted during a financial year, only their most senior rank has been counted.
2. Rounding has been applied to all figures. Totals have been rounded separately and therefore may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

Accurate details of the educational establishments for which the continuity of educational allowance has been paid to service personnel in each financial year are not held.

### Armed Forces: Wales

**Dr Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the percentile ratio is of those serving in the armed forces in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* other constituent parts of the UK. [2905]

**Mr Robathan:** The information requested is given in the following table:

*1 April 2010—percentage of armed forces personnel by area of posting*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Wales | 1.5 |
| England | 76.7 |
| Scotland | 6.3 |
| Northern Ireland | 2.2 |

The table does not include those individuals on permanent non-operational postings outside the UK. Personnel on operational deployments will be shown against their most recent station location.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles he has ordered since May 2010. [3060]

**Peter Luff:** The total number of armoured vehicles ordered since May 2010 is 28. The contract for the Wolfhound Tactical Support Vehicles was amended in early June 2010 to include an additional 28 vehicles.

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his timetable is for the selection of a prototype for the light protected patrol vehicles. [3119]

**Peter Luff:** Bids in response to the Invitation to Tender for the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle were returned on 15 June 2010. These responses are currently being assessed by the Department, with the intention to place a contract for the first batch of vehicles in late summer.

### Astute Class Submarines

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to review the contracts for *(a)* the fifth and *(b)* the sixth Astute-class submarine as part of the Government's review of contracts placed since January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [2791]

**Peter Luff:** The Government reassessed spending approvals granted between 1 January 2010 and the general election. This included consideration of the decision to commit to the Initial Build of Astute Boat 5 and Long Lead Procurement Activities associated with Astute Boat 6, contracts worth some £332 million. The review concluded that these contracts should proceed. It should be noted, however, that in the context of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Secretary of State has set work in hand to review all major equipment and support contracts to ensure the future programme is coherent with future defence needs and can be afforded.

### AWE Aldermaston

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has taken steps to establish whether development of the proposed new hydrodynamics facility at AWE Aldermaston is consistent with the recommendations and actions from the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. [3615]

**Peter Luff:** Proposals for a replacement hydrodynamics facility at AWE Aldermaston have been developed to ensure full compliancy with our non-proliferation treaty (NPT) obligations.

### Defence

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 178W, on defence, if he will publish a list of senior personnel from his Department working in the team when its final membership is determined. [2693]

**Dr Fox:** The work within my Department for the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) is being led by the Director General Strategy, Tom McKane, and coordinated by the Head of the Strategy Unit, Paul Vincent Devine.

A number of other senior staff in the Department are also participating in the SDSR in their areas of expertise.

### Defence Equipment: Sales

**Dr Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the nationality was of purchasers of *(a)* ships, *(b)* vehicles and *(c)* aircraft purchased through (i) the Disposal Services Authority and (ii) e-disposals, by monetary value of purchase in each year for which figures are available. [2351]

**Peter Luff:** Since 1982 the following ex-Royal Navy and ex-Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels have been sold to other countries by the Disposal Services Authority (DSA) or its predecessor organisations.

| *Ship* | *Date* | *Country* | *Gross revenue (£/€)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| HMS Lynx | February 1982 | Bangladesh | £1,500,000 |
| HMS Norfolk | February 1982 | Chile | £8,200,000 |
| RFA Tidepool | February 1982 | Chile | £1,800,000 |
| HMS London | March 1982 | Pakistan | £2,000,000 |
| Total financial year 1981-82 | | | £13,500,000 |
| HMS Bacchante | August 1982 | New Zealand | £11,000,000 |
| HMS Dido | August 1982 | New Zealand | £6,000,000 |
| Total financial year 1982-83 | | | £17,000,000 |
| HMS Antrim | March 1984 | Chile | £8,500,000 |
| HMS Gurkha | March 1984 | Indonesia | £2,500,000 |
| HMS Tartar | March 1984 | Indonesia | £2,500,000 |
| HMS Zulu | March 1984 | Indonesia | £3,500,000 |
| Total financial year 1983-84 | | | £16,000,000 |
| HMS Hermes | April 1986 | India | 22,500,000 |
| HMS Hydra | April 1986 | Indonesia | £2,000,000 |
| HMS Glamorgan | September 1986 | Chile | £8,500,000 |
| Total financial year 1986-87 | | | £33,000,000 |
| HMS Fife | July 1987 | Chile | £12,000,000 |
| Total financial year 1987-88 | | | £12,000,000 |
| HMS Apollo | May 1988 | Pakistan | £9,000,000 |
| HMS Diomede | May 1988 | Pakistan | £9,000,000 |
| HMS Swallow | August 1988 | Republic of Ireland | £4,000,000 |
| HMS Swift | August 1988 | Republic of Ireland | £4,000,000 |
| Total financial year 1988-89 | | | £26,000,000 |
| HMS Olympus | July 1989 | Canada | £2,660,000 |
| Total financial year 1989-90 | | | £2,660,000 |
| HMS Achilles | November 1990 | Chile | £2,400,000 |
| HMS Penelope | March 1991 | Ecuador | £14,584,000 |
| HMS Danae | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Total financial year 1990-91 | | | £16,984,000 |
| HMS Attacker | November 1991 | Lebanon | £730,000 |
| HMS Hunter | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Striker | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Fencer | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Chaser | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| RMAS Throsk | November 1991 | Ecuador | £200,000 |
| RMAS Waterside | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| RMAS Green Rover | April 1992 | Indonesia | £6,000,000 |
| Total financial year 1991-92 | | | £6,930,000 |
| HMS Ariande | May 92 | Chile | £3,000,000 |
| RMAS Blue Rover | March 1993 | Portugal | £5,500,000 |
| Total financial year 1992-93 | | | £8,500,000 |
| HMS Ambuscade | July 1993 | Pakistan | £59,334,000 |
| HMS Amazon | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Arrow | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Alacrity | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Active | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Avenger | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Jersey | November 1993 | Bangladesh | £950,000 |
| Total financial year 1993-94 | | | £60,284,000 |
| HMS Herford | July 1994 | Bangladesh | £3,600,000 |
| HMS Carron | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Waveney | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Dovey | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Broadsword | November 1994 | Brazil | £116,000,000 |
| HMS Battleaxe | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Brazen | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Brilliant | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Helmsdale | November 1994 | Brazil | £3,000,000 |
| HMS Humber | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Ribble | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Andromeda | February 1995 | India | £1,650,000 |
| Total financial year 1994-95 | | | £124,450,000 |
| HMS Itchen | August 1996 | Brazil | £4,400,000 |
| HMS Spey | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Arun | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Blackwater | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Plover | January 1997 | Philippines | £7,500,000 |
| HMS Peacock | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Starling | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Total financial year 1996-97 | | | £11,900,000 |
| HMS Unseen | January 1998 | Canada | £227,400,000 |
| HMS Unicorn | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Ursula | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |

| *Ship* | *Date* | *Country* | *Gross revenue (£/€)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| HMS Upholder | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Total financial year 1998-99 | | | £227,400,000 |
| HMS Bicester | July 2000 | Greece | £10,000,000 |
| HMS Berkeley | February 2001 | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Orkney | December 2000 | Trinidad and Tobago | £1,500,000 |
| Total financial year 2000-01 | | | £11,500,000 |
| HMS Orwell | June 2001 | Guyana | £1,500,000 |
| Total financial year 2001-02 | | | £1,500,000 |
| HMS Shetland | August 2002 | Bangladesh | £8,000,000 |
| HMS Alderney | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Anglesey | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Lindisfarne | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Guernsey | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS London | [1]— | Romania | £116,000,000 |
| HMS Coventry | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Total financial year 2002-03 | | | £124,000,000 |
| HMS Sheffield | April 2003 | Chile | £27,000,000 |
| Total financial year 2003-04 | | | £27,000,000 |
| HMS Norfolk | October 2005 | Chile | £134,000,000 |
| HMS Grafton | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Marlborough | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Total financial year 2005-06 | | | £134,000,000 |
| HMS Sandown | September 2006 | Estonia | £32,000,000 |
| HMS Inverness | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Bridport | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Total financial year 2006-07 | | | £32,000,000 |
| RFA Sir Galahad | July 2007 | Brazil | £5,235,000 |
| Total financial year 2007-08 | | | £5,235,000 |
| RFA Sir Bedivere | October 2009 | Brazil | £10,000,000 |
| HMS Cottesmore | November 2009 | Lithuania | [2]€55,000,000 |
| HMS Dulverton | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Total financial year 2009-10 | | | £10,000,000 |
| HMS Leeds Castle | April 2010 | Bangladesh | £2,450,000 |
| HMS Dumbarton Castle | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| HMS Roebuck | May 2010 | [1]— | £4,800,000 |
| Total financial year 2010-11 | | | £7,250,000 |

[1] Indicates brace.

[2] Not all received yet.

Additionally, the following vehicles and aircraft have been sold and prices have been included where records exist:

*2008*

'C' Vehicles to Jordan armed forces totalling approximately £1.8 million in value.

*1997*

Six Wessex helicopters to Uruguay.

*1999*

Two Hercules aircraft to Sri Lanka.

*2003*

Three Hercules aircraft to Austrian Air Force.

*2005*

One Hercules aircraft to Royal Netherlands Air Force.

The value of the aircraft sales is not available because only incomplete records exist for the period prior to the establishment of the DSA and its transfer into Defence Logistics Organisation in April 2005.

Vessels and aircraft are not sold through e-disposals. Vehicles are, but information on the monetary value of receipts from the e-disposals service is not recorded by the DSA. The items sold under e-disposals are disposed of by contractors who are not required to declare the breakdown of their income to the DSA.

## Defence: Procurement

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* new helicopters, *(b)* transport aircraft, *(c)* multi-role Typhoon aircraft and *(d)* new warships have been delivered since 1997. [2936]

**Peter Luff** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* Details of new air and maritime platforms, not including enhancements to existing equipment, are provided in the following table:

| | *Type* | *Number* | *Years delivered* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Helicopters* | | | |
| | Apache AH Mk1 | 67 | 1999-2004 |
| | Chinook Mk2a | 6 | 1998 |
| | Chinook Mk3 | 8 | 2001 |
| | Merlin Mk1 | 43 | 1997-2001 |
| | Merlin Mk3 | 22 | 2000-02 |
| | Merlin Mk3a | 6 | 2008 |
| | Sea King Mk3a | 2 | 1997 |
| *Transport Aircraft* | | | |
| | C-17 | 6 | 2001-08 |
| | Hercules C130J | 25 | 1998-2001 |
| *Typhoon* | | | |
| | Typhoon | 64 | 2003 to date |
| *Warships* | | | |
| | Type 23 Frigate | 5 | 1997-2002 |
| | Offshore Patrol Vessels | 4 | 2003-06 |
| | Sandown Class (MCMV) | 7 | 1998-2001 |
| | Landing Platform Helicopter | 1 | 1998 |
| | Landing Platform Dock | 2 | 2003-04 |
| | Vanguard Class Submarine | 1 | 2000 |

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* support staff in each role in theatre and *(b)* other civilian staff were employed by his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [2778]

**Mr Robathan:** The latest figure for MOD civilian staff currently deployed in theatre is 956; of these 850 are locally employed civilians (LECs) and 106 are in support of Op Herrick in Afghanistan. These are broken down as follows:

| *Role* | *Staff numbers* |
|---|---|
| Civil Secretary | 1 |
| Deputy Civil Secretary | 2 |
| Policy Adviser | 7 |
| Defence Adviser | 8 |
| Commercial Officer | 6 |
| Finance Officer | 9 |
| Media Adviser | 1 |
| Operational Analyst | 6 |
| Scientific Adviser | 4 |
| Fire Officer | 1 |
| Ministry of Defence Police | 20 |
| Area Claims Officer | 2 |
| NHS Nurse | 2 |
| Archivist | 2 |
| Graphics Officer | 1 |
| Defence Estates Project Manager | 4 |
| Defence Support (DSG) | 30 |
| Locally Employed Civilians (LECs) | 850 |

The total number of civilian staff employed by MOD, including LECs, and those mentioned above is 85,590.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which posts in his Department which had been filled by uniformed personnel were changed into civilian posts in the last five years. [2816]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* The information requested is not held in a format that allows cross comparison. To produce the comparison requested would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Reviews

**Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Government departments: reviews, what reviews his Department is undertaking; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* timescale of each is. [2590]

**Dr Fox:** The Coalition Agreement sets out in detail the Government's future plans, including the key reviews it will be undertaking. My Department will bring forward detailed information about these reviews in due course.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopter frames he has ordered since May 2010. [3059]

**Peter Luff:** Since May 2010 the Ministry of Defence has not committed to any new contracts for helicopter frames. Our helicopter requirements are subject to review under the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

### Military Bases: Safety

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to increase the level of safety of fuels and gases at *(a)* military bases in the UK and *(b)* permanent joint operating bases; and if he will make a statement. [2620]

**Peter Luff:** All fuel and gas installations at UK military bases and permanent joint operating bases are maintained and operated in accordance with statutory and departmental requirements. The safety of storage and transportation of fuels and gases is of paramount importance and MOD constantly reviews and updates its procedures through the Defence Fuels and Gases Environmental and Safety Board. Fuel Safety Management Plans, covering all aspects of fuel and gas safety, for both compliance and environmental contingencies, are currently being revised. Any recommended improvements identified will be considered during the next annual planning round.

All MOD facilities comply with the requirements of the relevant regulatory authority (Health and Safety Executive and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Scottish Environment Protection Agency in Scotland). The Government Pipeline and Storage System facilities also comply with the Dangerous Substances and explosives Atmosphere Regulations 2002. All Oil and Pipeline Agency storage depots and pipelines have been assessed for risk, and adequate and effective measures are in place to deal with any incident that might arise.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the Safety, Environment and Sustainable Development Report 2009 by the Defence Environment and Safety Board; and if he will make a statement. [2655]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 16 June 2010]:* On behalf of the Secretary of State, the 2nd Under-Secretary of State chairs a Defence Environment and Safety Board (DESB) which monitors and reviews performance, and provides assurance to the Defence Board on the effective operation of risk management and internal control systems. The DESB's Safety, Environment and Sustainable Development Report 2009 was assessed by both the Defence Audit Committee and the Defence Board. The Defence Board noted the priorities in the DESB report and stressed its determination to do all that it could to continue improving the Department's Health and Safety performance.

### Unmanned Air Vehicles

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value is of the contract for the delivery of Mantis Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs); what criteria were used by his Department in deciding to award the contract; what alternatives to the Mantis UAVs were considered; and if he will make a statement . [2694]

**Peter Luff:** There is no contract for the delivery of Mantis Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Mantis was a one-off concept demonstrator programme that has now successfully concluded.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Iraq Committee of Inquiry

**Mr Llwyd:** To ask the Prime Minister whether the Chilcot Inquiry on the war with Iraq will be able to withhold publication of evidence on grounds other than national security; and if he will make a statement. [2826]

**The Prime Minister:** The Protocol agreed between the previous Government and the Inquiry sets out both the arrangements under which the Inquiry may request that the Government declassify documents for the Inquiry's public use, and the grounds on which such requests may be refused.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 32WS, on special advisers, what the roles and responsibilities are of each special adviser listed in the statement. [2760]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the written ministerial statement I made on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 32WS.

### USA: Oil

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister what recent *(a)* representations he has made to and *(b)* discussions he has had with the President of the United States on BP; and if he will make a statement. [2789]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer my hon. Friend to the comments given by my official spokesman on 12 June 2010. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/06/gulf-oil-spill-pms-call-with-president-obama-51718

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Ministerial Announcements

9. **Mr Bone:** To ask the Leader of the House what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the provision of information on new policies to the House before the media. [3030]

**Mr Heath:** The Ministerial Code, issued by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, makes clear that when Parliament is in session, the most important announcements of Government policy should be made in the first instance, in Parliament.

My right hon. Friend the Leader of the House has reiterated the importance of this issue to Cabinet colleagues.

### Participation in Debate

10. **Greg Hands:** To ask the Leader of the House what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the House's procedures in enabling more hon. Members to participate in debates. [3031]

**Mr Heath:** The use of time limits on speeches has enabled more hon. Members to be called in popular debates. I would welcome any further ideas the hon. Gentleman may have.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Football Club Governance

15. **Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to reform football governance rules to support the co-operative ownership of football clubs by supporters; and if he will make a statement. [3008]

**Hugh Robertson:** The Government will encourage the Football Association, Premier League, and Football League to work closely together to improve the governance and regulation of the game. This includes exploring better ways to involve supporters in their local clubs.

18. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the governing bodies of football on the governance of professional and amateur clubs. [3012]

**Hugh Robertson:** I have had introductory discussions with parts of the football family covering various issues, including governance. While it is not for Government to run football, I have made it clear that I expect football to address these issues internally.

### Elite Sport

17. **Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will meet representatives of further and higher education institutions to discuss their contribution to elite performance programmes in sport. [3011]

**Hugh Robertson:** I would be happy to do so.

### Pornographic Imagery

19. **Mr Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to protect children from exposure to pornographic imagery on television and the internet. [3013]

**Mr Vaizey:** Effective protection for children can only be achieved by parents, industry and Government working together. Ofcom has a specific duty in relation to broadcasting and the Government will continue to work with a range of organisations in promoting online safety.

### Arts Council England: Finance

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on future funding to the Arts Council; and if he will make a statement. [3057]

**Mr Vaizey:** We are committed to Government funding to the arts through Arts Council England. Our proposed reform of the National Lottery Distribution Fund will ensure that the arts good cause (Arts Council England, Arts Council Wales, Scottish Arts Council, Scottish Screen, Arts Council Northern Ireland, UK Film) receives 20% of funds in future. Current projections suggest this will increase Lottery funding to the arts by £50 million per year.

We recognise the importance of arts organisation operating on a mixed model of private giving, public funding and box office receipts and will aim to help arts organisations maximise their ability to raise money from private sources.

### British Film Institute: UK Film Council

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to merge the British Film Institute and the UK Film Council. [3552]

**Mr Vaizey:** There are no current plans to merge the UK Film Council and the British Film Institute. However, I am planning to reassess fundamentally how the Government support film in this country. I want to make sure that we are supporting the film industry so that it is ready for the challenges it will face in the decade to come, and that we make sure every pound of public money we spend gives the maximum benefit.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 27W, on departmental official cars, what estimate he has made of the reduction in expenditure resulting from his Department's decision not to allocate cars or drivers to its Ministers; what the cost of using Ministerial cars and drivers was to his Department in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what alternative forms of transport Ministers in his Department will be using to carry out official duties. [2959]

**John Penrose:** We estimate a saving of approximately £250,000 (subject to the resolution of contracts) from the Secretary of State's decision to cancel dedicated ministerial cars for this Department. The cost in 2009-10 was £367,181 (gross). It is for each Minister to arrange their own means of transport in carrying out their official duties, but Ministers are encouraged to use public transport where possible.

### Digital Broadcasting: Radio

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects a Combined Station Guide to become standard on all digital radio receivers sold in the UK. [3588]

**Mr Vaizey:** A working prototype of an integrated station guide has been developed. While further refinement of the guide is required, we will work with manufacturers to encourage its inclusion in future devices as and when appropriate.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that local radio stations which only transmit on FM do not lose prominence as digital radio penetration increases. [3589]

**Mr Vaizey:** The vast majority of digital radio sets on the market already receive FM as well as digital radio, but we are working with manufacturers to ensure that all future digital sets incorporate FM as standard. This will help ensure FM stations remain as accessible as digital stations.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he next intends to meet representatives of local radio stations to discuss the digital switchover. [3590]

**Mr Vaizey:** No meetings with representatives of local radio are scheduled at present. However, we are keen to meet all key stakeholders, including representatives of local radio, to consider how a transition from analogue to digital radio could be delivered in a way that meets the needs of both listeners and the radio industry.

### Digital Economy Act 2010

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which provisions of the Digital Economy Act 2010 he expects to include in a legislative proposal for repeal; and if he will make a statement. [3533]

**Mr Vaizey:** There are no plans to repeal any provisions in the Digital Economy Act 2010.

### Listed Buildings: Coventry

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to make a decision on the proposed listing by English Heritage of Coventry Market; what factors he is taking into account in his assessment of the suitability of that listing; what his most recent assessment is of the effects on the regeneration programme for Coventry of that listing; and what his most recent assessment is of the economic viability of the Coventry Market building. [3107]

**John Penrose:** I hope to be able to make a decision on the review of the listing decision regarding Coventry Retail Market before the end of June. In considering buildings for listing I am only able to take into account the statutory criteria of special architectural or historic interest, as set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

### Music

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to assist the music industry. [2988]

**Mr Vaizey:** The music industry is an integral part of the creative industries, and a growth sector that will play a major part in rebalancing the economy, so we are determined to have the right support in place. We will therefore be working closely with the music industry on a wide range of specific issues, including reducing online copyright infringement through the implementation of the Digital Economy Act 2010. In addition, 14 community music rehearsal spaces are being set up around England to encourage and develop grass-roots talent.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many meetings he has had with the Olympic Delivery Authority on the future use of the Olympic stadium following the London 2012 Olympic Games; and if he will publish minutes of each meeting. [2923]

**Hugh Robertson** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* The Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC), rather than the Olympic Delivery Authority, is responsible for determining the future use of the stadium after the London 2012 Games. I have already met with OPLC to discuss a variety of issues and they are currently undertaking a market testing exercise to gauge the commercial interest in the legacy use of the stadium. They are keeping my right hon. Friend and me apprised of progress.

### Olympic Games 2012: Cheshire

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of the London 2012 Olympics on the economy of *(a)* city of Chester constituency and *(b)* Cheshire West and Chester borough. [3085]

**Hugh Robertson:** I have not made a specific assessment of the effects of the Games on the economy of *(a)* city of Chester constituency and *(b)* Cheshire West and Chester borough. However, the north-west stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 Games, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations.

Of the Olympic Delivery Authority's suppliers, 52 are businesses registered in the north-west, and more are winning work in the supply chains of its contractors.

The Old Trafford football stadium will be one of the key non-London venues, hosting football matches, and along with pre-games training camps will provide an opportunity to create further economic benefits, including inward investment through the international attention that will follow.

There are 68 facilities in the region which are included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide and seven of these are in Cheshire or Chester. To date, agreements are in place with members of the Oceania National Olympic Committees, the National Olympic Committee of Thailand and Australia's swimming team, formalising their intentions to use facilities in the region in the run-up to the games.

There are 85 games-inspired projects in the north-west which have been awarded the Inspire Mark and during 2012, as part of the UK-wide cultural celebrations, there will be live sites in Manchester and Liverpool. Additionally, there are several cultural legacy projects in the north-west of which "We Play" is one. It combines digital, physical and virtual participation opportunities for people from all walks of life.

### Olympic Games 2012: Renewable Energy

**Stella Creasy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the effects of the cancellation of the Olympic Park wind turbine on the environmental sustainability of the London 2012 Olympics; for what reasons the turbine was cancelled; where the replacement photovoltaic panels and biomass gasification unit will be located; when they will be installed; what consultation of local residents on the matter is planned; and if he will make a statement. [3120]

**Hugh Robertson:** The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) made careful assessment of the effects of the cancellation of the Olympic Park wind turbine on the environmental sustainability of London 2012 and has committed to meeting its 20% renewable energy target using the biomass boilers at the Energy Centre which will be commissioned in autumn 2010, together with alternative options.

The decision not to proceed with the turbine project was taken because of a number of factors in the industry, including new safety legislation introduced in 2010 applying to design elements of this particular wind turbine (specifically the internal operator lift), which the preferred bidder's turbine supplier for the project felt unable to meet before the Games. This led to them subsequently withdrawing from the project.

Subsequent industry feedback on the new safety directive, coupled with a challenging delivery timetable, revealed a limited commercial interest in the project, and led the ODA to conclude that the installation of a wind turbine was no longer feasible.

Photovoltaic panels and a biomass gasification unit are among the alternative options being considered, but no final decision about either of these has been made and a programme of consultation will be part of any required planning process.

### S4C: Finance

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the compatibility of reductions in S4C's budget with the provisions of the Broadcasting Act 1996; and if he will make a statement. [3049]

**Mr Vaizey:** I have discussed the matter with S4C and the Wales Office.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 106W.

### Scouts and Guides: Finance

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support his Department provides to the *(a)* Scout Association and *(b)* Girl Guides; and if he will make a statement. [2793]

**Hugh Robertson:** Sport England has supported scout and guide groups in the past through their open funding streams and Sport Unlimited funding. I would encourage both sets of groups to consider applying in the future where they meet the objectives and eligibility criteria.

### Tourism: Coastal Areas

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on the encouragement of tourism in seaside towns and cities; and if he will make a statement. [3073]

**John Penrose:** The seaside remains an important part of our visitor economy. We recently announced a goal to increase the proportion of UK residents' tourism spend that goes on domestic holidays to 50% of their total tourism spend at home and abroad, and coastal destinations and attractions can contribute significantly to that achievement. VisitEngland are currently developing a seaside resorts action plan, as part of their broader planning to improve the growth and competitiveness of the visitor economy.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Housing: Construction

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in each region in each of the last four years. [2864]

**Andrew Stunell:** The information requested is published in the following table.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new-build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2008-09, for example, a total of 55,770 additional affordable homes were provided in England.

The next CLG Affordable Housing statistical release containing figures for 2009-10 is scheduled to be published in the autumn of 2010.

*Additional new-build affordable home by region of England*[1,2]

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | 4,160 | 5,020 | 6,220 | 6,180 |
| East Midlands | 2,490 | 2,370 | 3,250 | 3,570 |
| London | 7,460 | 10,190 | 11,090 | 8,600 |
| North East | 930 | 1,230 | 820 | 1,300 |
| NorthWest | 2,040 | 2,230 | 3,220 | 3,120 |
| South East | 7,500 | 7,600 | 8,310 | 8,100 |
| SouthWest | 3,770 | 3,360 | 4,670 | 5,620 |
| West Midlands | 3,370 | 2,440 | 3,750 | 4,340 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 1,550 | 1,830 | 1,940 | 2,400 |
| England[3] | 33,260 | 36,260 | 43,260 | 43,220 |

[1] Column totals may not sum as data are rounded to nearest 10 units.

[2] By area in which home is located.

[3] Figures for recycled capital grant fund, disposal proceeds fund, and remodelled units which cannot be broken down to show new build and acquisitions are excluded from this total.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with which New Build Homebuy schemes announced by his Department in *(a)* September 2009 and *(b)* January 2010 the Homes and Communities Agency has not yet entered into a funding agreement; [2890]

(2) with which New Build Homebuy schemes the Homes and Communities Agency has entered into a funding agreement to date. [2891]

**Andrew Stunell:** The overall funding allocations for the National Affordable Housing Programme announced by the Department in September 2009 and January 2010 included funding for New Build HomeBuy schemes. All of those schemes have received a formal allocation of funding.

The HCA have made allocations to 2,083 New Build HomeBuy schemes since the start of the 2008-11 National Affordable Housing Programme. The HCA publishes regional allocation statements for the NAHP on a quarterly basis on its website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/inyourarea

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what savings have been *(a)* announced and *(b)* proposed in expenditure on the National Affordable Housing Programme for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) future years. [3054]

**Andrew Stunell:** I refer the hon. Member to the announcement made by the Chancellor and the Chief Secretary on 24 May with regard to the £6.2 billion of savings identified. Decisions on funding for affordable housing in 2010-11 will be made as part of the Budget on 22 June and for future years as part of the spending review.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in the South Lakeland region in each of the last five years. [3170]

**Andrew Stunell:** The information requested is published in the table.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new-build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2008-09, for example, a total of 80 additional affordable homes were provided in South Lakeland.

The next CLG Affordable Housing statistical release containing figures for 2009-10 is scheduled to be published in the autumn of 2010.

*Additional new-build affordable homes located in South Lakeland district*[1]

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 30 |
| 2005-06 | 70 |
| 2006-07 | 80 |
| 2007-08 | 90 |
| 2008-09 | 40 |

[1] Rounded to nearest 10 units.

### Affordable Housing: Rural Areas

**Mr Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to take forward the work of the Taylor Review on Affordable Housing; and if he will make a statement. [2783]

**Robert Neill:** The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing 'Living Working Countryside' made 34 recommendations to the previous Government.

As of February 2010, 17 recommendations had been implemented by Communities and Local Government (CLG) and its partners. Ministers have not yet decided whether and how to take forward any remaining recommendations.

## Council Housing: Construction

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on local authorities borrowing against their housing stock to fund the construction of new social homes for rent. [2889]

**Andrew Stunell:** Local authorities are free to borrow without Government consent for capital projects of any kind including, if they wish, the construction of new social homes for rent. Authorities cannot offer housing stock as security for loans. Instead, all borrowing is secured upon their revenues. It is the amount of revenue income available to service debt which determines how much they can borrow.

## Councillors: Powers

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral answer of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 443-44, on garden development, when he plans to bring forward proposals to repeal the regulations on predetermination. [2913]

**Robert Neill:** We intend to ensure that councillors have the power to speak up on issues that are important to those they represent and will as necessary legislate for this as soon as practicable.

## .Councillors: Pay

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of the level of transparency of the mechanisms by which local authorities publish details of the remuneration of councillors by the Improvement and Development Agency. [3436]

**Robert Neill:** No. However, every councillor is required through the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 to enter in the council's register of members' interests, which is available for public inspection, details of their employment by any person or body who employs them, where the business of the authority relates to or is likely to affect that person or body. We are committed to ensuring that councillors' remuneration is published in a more open and standardised way to increase transparency.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Improvement and Development Agency has paid to each councillor in each of the last three years. [3439]

**Robert Neill:** My Department does not hold this information.

## Decentralisation and Localism Bill

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his timetable is for the introduction and passage of a decentralisation and localism Bill; and whether he plans to consult on proposals to be contained in the Bill. [2658]

**Greg Clark:** The Government intend to introduce legislation to devolve greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities control over housing and planning decisions later in this parliamentary session, with a view to achieving Royal Assent as soon as parliamentary time allows.

The Government will set out more detail about proposals to be contained in legislation over the coming months and consult further with interested parties and business partners where this is necessary to develop the policy over the summer.

## Housing: Construction

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which sites in Tameside local authority area have received funding from the Kickstart programme. [2884]

**Andrew Stunell:** The following table sets out the sites in the Tameside local authority area where developers have received funding from the Kickstart programme.

| *Project name* | *Developer* | *Funding (£ million)* | *Total number of units unlocked* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Longlands | Urban Splash Group | 4.9 | 59 |
| Grove Road | Countryside Properties (Northern) Ltd | 0.7 | 58 |

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps are being taken to ensure that local need remains a criterion in the future development of housing policy; [3500]

(2) when he plans to issue guidance to local authorities on how future housing provision should be determined; and what criteria will be used for such determinations. [3501]

**Robert Neill:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to the leader of each local authority in England on 27 May to reaffirm our commitment to abolish regional strategies and return decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils. Decisions on housing supply will rest with local planning authorities without the framework of regional numbers and plans. The Government will make a formal announcement on this matter in due course.

## Housing: Cornwall

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of second homes in *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* St Austell and Newquay constituency. [3115]

**Robert Neill:** In October 2009, Cornwall council reported there were 13,995 homes registered as second homes for council tax purposes in their area.

Data are not available at a constituency level.

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the level of housing need in each local authority ward in *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* St Austell and Newquay constituency. [3116]

**Andrew Stunell:** My Department does not estimate housing need. This is for the local authority to do, taking account of all the relevant evidence.

### Local Government Finance

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS, on local government savings package, if he will itemise the component programmes, departmental reductions and NDPB savings that form the £90.4 million savings listed as cutting waste. [2947]

**Robert Neill:** The following table breaks down the £90.421 million of savings that my Department has made under the heading of "Cutting waste—CLG, Quangos and lower priority programmes" which formed part of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's written statement of 10 June 2010, full details of which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1611369.

This is part of the £780 million contribution Communities and Local Government has made overall towards the £6.2 billion cross government savings in 2010-11.

| *Programmes 2010-11* | *Description* | *Savings (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| Cutting waste—CLG, quangos and lower priority programmes | | 90,421 |
| Running costs—CLG | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 26,954 |
| Running costs—Regional development agencies | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 17,000 |
| *Running costs—quangos* | | |
| PINS | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 6,000 |
| Thames Gateway—Direct | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets—UDC contingency | 500 |
| Thames Gateway London UDC | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 600 |
| Thames Gateway Thurrock UDC | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 600 |
| National Tenant Voice | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 79 |
| Building Research Advisory Committee | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 2 |
| National Housing and Planning Advice Unit | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 215 |
| Tenant Services Authority | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 2,835 |
| Homes and Communities Agency | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 8,831 |
| Infrastructure Planning Commission | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 735 |
| West Northants Development Corporation | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 1,000 |
| Community Development Foundation | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 167 |
| Leasehold Advisory Service | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 158 |
| FireBuy | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 137 |
| Residential Property Tribunal Service | Efficiency savings from 2010-11 budgets | 1,187 |
| *Lower priority programmes* | | |
| Fire—New Dimensions Programme | Procurement saving | 5,000 |
| Crosscutting Cohesion and Extremism Projects | Unallocated funding | 3,100 |
| Thames Gateway | Unallocated funding | 500 |
| Cohesion and Faith Programme (non LG element) | Unallocated funding | 3,235 |
| Prevent Programme (non ABG element) | Unallocated funding | 6,586 |
| Unallocated funding | Unallocated funding | 5,000 |

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effect on Harrow of proposed reductions in local government funding. [3135]

**Robert Neill:** We have asked local authorities to make a contribution of £1.166 billion to the £6.2 billion of cross-Government savings in 2010-11 to enable the Government to take immediate action to start to tackle the fiscal deficit. The reduction in grants for which final allocations had been announced for the London borough of Harrow is £1.291 million. This is a reduction of 0.5% compared to their overall main revenue grants allocation.

Local authorities are free to make their own decisions about where savings are found. We have ensured that councils have the flexibility to take decisions locally on how to deliver the savings needed without impacting on essential frontline services.

### Local Government: Public Consultation

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 239W, on local government: public consultation, which individual and organisations he plans to consult informally. [2961]

**Andrew Stunell:** As soon as we have considered the detailed options for delivering our commitment to help communities to save local facilities, we will be in a position to identify those who it will be important to consult informally on those proposals. However, I can assure the hon. Member that we will be consulting other Government Departments, representatives of local government, including in particular the Local Government Association, representatives of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors, representatives of the commercial property and small business sectors and the relevant professional bodies. I will be happy to let him have a list in due course, and would welcome any particular suggestions he would like to make.

### Regional Planning and Development

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his proposals to abolish regional spatial strategies, whether existing planning policy statements (PPS) will be retained; whether the principles set out in PPS1 will still apply; whether local development frameworks will continue; and if he will make a statement. [3117]

**Robert Neill:** In the Coalition Agreement the Government stated that it will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. An announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy will be made in due course.

We are absolutely committed to abolishing Regional Strategies. We are keen to move in advance of legislation and are currently considering revoking Regional Strategies ahead of taking legislation through Parliament. We will make a statement in due course. We are also committed to giving neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live. In the light of this we will review some elements of the local development framework system to ensure it reflects our policy on decentralisation and a simpler planning system.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral answer of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 455-56, on regional spatial strategies, from what date local authorities will be able to retain council tax receipts in respect of new housing for which they have granted planning permission; whether all such tax receipts will be sent to the local planning authority, with particular reference to district councils in two-tier areas; for how many years those authorities will receive such receipts; and if he will make a statement. [3118]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Government intend to provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including for new homes and businesses as set out in the coalition agreement. We will bring forward proposals to commence at the earliest opportunity.

**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his letter to council leaders of 27 May 2010 supersedes the advice to Planning Inspectorate inspectors contained in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of Regional Strategies - Forthcoming Abolition; by what process he plans to abolish regional strategies; what representations he has received from housebuilders and their representative organisation on guidance on continuing application of regional strategies; whether he plans to issue further guidance on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [3591]

**Robert Neill:** The Planning Inspectorate's note does not supersede the Secretary of State's letter of 27 May, it sets out advice to inspectors on how to deal with decision in the light of the Secretary of State's letter. Provisions to abolish regional strategies will be in the Government's localism Bill. We are very keen to move quickly and are currently considering the implications of revoking regional strategies ahead of taking legislation through Parliament.

We have received representations from house builders and the Home Builders Federation regarding the implications for house building and transitional arrangements. We will make a statement shortly and plan to issue advice on the implications of abolishing regional strategies.

### Regional Planning and Development: West Midlands

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Government plans to reply to the *(a)* Second and *(b)* Third report of the West Midlands Regional Select Committee of Session 2009-10. [2992]

**Robert Neill:** Yes, the Government will be responding to these reports in the near future.

### Standards Board for England

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of operating the Standards Board for England and Wales since 2005. [2851]

**Robert Neill:** The grant provided to the Standards Board since 2005 is as follows:

| | *Standards Board for England grant-in-aid (£000)* | *Adjudication Panel for England (£000)* | *Total cost (£000)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 8,651 | 530 | 9,181 |
| 2006-07 | 11,424 | 357 | 11,781 |
| 2007-08 | 9,785 | 275 | 10,060 |
| 2008-09 | 8,027 | 258 | 8,285 |
| 2009-10 | 7,726 | [1]— | 7,726 |

[1] From 2009-2010 onwards responsibility for the Adjudication Panel for England (now known as First-tier Tribunal (Local Government Standards in England)) transferred to the Ministry of Justice.

For 2010-11, as we announced on 10 June, we are requiring savings of £1.45 million from the Standards Board and will be confirming their resulting budget shortly.

The conduct of local authority members in Wales is a matter for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

### Travellers: Caravan Sites

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of how many traveller encampments in each *(a)* county, *(b)* metropolitan and *(c)* unitary local authority area legal powers were used to move the encampment on in the most recent year for which figures are available. [3077]

**Andrew Stunell:** The data requested are not held by Communities and Local Government.

### Working Neighbourhoods Fund

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010 on local government savings package, on what basis he has concluded that there is only limited evidence the Working Neighbourhoods Fund has been effective. [2595]

**Robert Neill:** We are unable to prove the effectiveness of Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) because there is little or no evidence on the outputs/outcomes associated with the fund. WNF is paid as part of the area-based grant. The fact that the fund is un-ringfenced means that outputs/outcomes are not monitored; and hence we are unable to evaluate its impact.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities are to have a reduction in funding allocation per head of population from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund in 2010-11. [2862]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Working Neighbourhoods Fund is paid as part of area based grant. All local authorities that are eligible for working neighbourhoods fund have received a reduction in their area based grant funding. Where revenue grants to local authorities have been reduced, no local authority will face a reduction of more than 2% overall. Wigan will receive a reduction of 0.8% (£2.92 million) in their total main revenue grant allocation for 2010-11. Local government will be free to make their own decisions about where savings are found. We have ensured that councils have the flexibility to take decisions locally on how to deliver the savings needed.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Departmental Internet

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the URL is of each website managed by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which her Department is responsible. [2367]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA, including our non-departmental public bodies and agencies, currently manages 82 websites. The URL for each is set out in the following table. As part of the Transformational Government Website Rationalisation process, we anticipate that around 57 of these will close by April 2011.

*Current URLS expected to close by April 2011*

http://www.agwasteplastics.org.uk
http://www.bobw.co.uk
http://countryside-quality-counts.org.uk
http://www.ecolots.co.uk
http://www.efishbusiness.co.uk
http://www.envirowise.gov.uk
http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk
http://www.gagi.org.uk
http://www.iwac.org.uk
http://www.landscapecharacter.org.uk
http://laqmsupport.org.uk
http://www.lupg.org.uk
http://www.magic.gov.uk
http://www.mfa.gov.uk
http://www.naei.org.uk
http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk
http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk
http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk
http://www.plantcultures.org
http://www.searchmesh.net
http://www.ukbap.org.uk
http://www.ukmaburbanforum.co.uk
http://www.uknlo.gov.uk
http://www.vet-residues-committee.gov.uk
http://www.vpc.gov.uk
http://www.wapis.org.uk
http://www.wastematters.org.uk
http://www.whi.org.uk
http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive
http://whi.net.countryside.gov.uk
http://www.crosscompliance.org.uk
http://www.eca-water.gov.uk
http://www.rpa.gov.uk
http://www.uwe.ac.uk/aqm/review
http://www.ukcip.org.uk
http://outdoorhealthforum.com
http://ukglobalinfluence.org
http://wetlandvision.org.uk
http://hillfarming.org.uk
http://intertidalmanagement.co.uk
http://www.nationalbiodiversity.org
http://wastedirectory.org.uk
http://www.streamlife.org.uk
http://www.remas.ewindows.eu.org
http://www.uk-pollutantdeposition.ceh.ac.uk
http://www.frame.ceh.ac.uk
http://critloads.ceh.ac.uk
http://www.diamondsinthelandscape.org.uk
http://www.tothetable.co.uk
http://www.uksocialdeprivation.aeat.com
http://socialcostofcarbon.aeat.com/html/introduction.htm
http://www.mdcdatum.org.uk
http://www.wfduk.org
http://www.landshapes.org
http://robin-wood.eu
http://www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk

*Current URLS expected to remain beyond April 2011*

http://www.defra.gov.uk
http://www.cobody.gov.uk
http://www.fawc.org.uk
http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk
http://www.seac.gov.uk
http://www.dwi.gov.uk
http://www.gla.gov.uk
http://www.jncc.gov.uk
http://www.potatoesforcaterers.co.uk
http://laws.gla.gov.uk
http://www.cefas.co.uk

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk
http://www.naturalengland.org.uk
http://www.beefyandlamby.co.uk
http://www.bmesonline.org.uk
http://www.britishmeatfoodservice.com
http://www.lovepork.co.uk
http://www.netregs.gov.uk
http://www.schoolmilk.co.uk
http://potatoesforschools.org.uk
http://www.britishpotatoes.co.uk
http://www.lovechips.co.uk
http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com
http://www.potatoposters.co.uk
http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk

### Departmental Postal Services

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on postage in 2009. [3343]

**Richard Benyon:** From information held centrally for core DEFRA, £255,441.91 was spent in the fiscal year 2009-10 on postage.

To provide the information for all DEFRA executive agencies and executive and advisory NDPBs would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Water Charges

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of *(a)* service charge, *(b)* sewerage charge, *(c)* water usage charge, *(d)* fire-fighting provision charge and *(e)* any other relevant charge for water and sewerage provision was to Site 5 Almondbank, Perthshire in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008, (v) 2009 and (vi) 2010; and to which companies these payments were made. [2553]

**Richard Benyon** *[holding answer 15 June 2010]:* In respect of the retained part of Site 5 Almondbank, the departmental records show that for the years in question *(a)* no costs were incurred in respect of service charges; *(b)* no sewage charges have been raised; *(c)* the annual water charges paid are listed in the table below; *(d)* no cost has been incurred in respect of fire fighting provision; and *(e)* no other water and sewage related charges other than those listed in the following table have been levied against the property.

We are currently unable to identify the specific spend incurred in respect of Site 5 Almondbank during 2005 from the financial data available.

| | *Supplier* | *Cost discharged (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | — | Not available |
| 2006 | Business Stream, A Scottish Water Company | 9,502.00 |
| 2007 | Business Stream, A Scottish Water Company | 14,724.76 |
| 2008 | Business Stream, A Scottish Water Company | 21,036.57 |
| 2009 | Business Stream, A Scottish Water Company | 12,959.44 |
| 2010 | Business Stream, A Scottish Water Company | 769.21 |

### Fisheries: Quotas

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to support fishermen in Thanet experiencing restrictions in fishing activity arising from allocations of quota. [3056]

**Richard Benyon:** I recognise the difficulties currently facing the inshore fleet. The shortage of fishing opportunities in the Thanet area is, in part, the result of international quota swaps that are usually secured to supplement the inshore fleets' allocations not being forthcoming this year. The Marine Management Organisation is continuing to pursue swaps in order to secure additional quota.

However, there are more fundamental issues to resolve in order to deliver reform of the inshore fleet that is clearly needed. I plan to meet representatives from across industry to drive forward work to find long-term solutions, as a matter of priority.

### National Parks: Public Consultation

**Mr Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for public consultation on democratic accountability in national parks. [2782]

**Richard Benyon:** As set out in the Government's coalition document, we will be reviewing the governance arrangements of national parks, and I will shortly be writing to the chairs of the national park authorities on this issue. No timetable has yet been set, but we will ensure the DEFRA website is updated on progress.

### Poultry: Animal Welfare

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when a ban on *(a)* battery cages for hens and *(b)* beak-trimming for hens will come into effect. [3128]

**Mr Paice:** The welfare of laying hens is protected in England by the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 and by similar legislation in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The legislation implements EU Directive 99/74/EC, which among other welfare advances bans the use of conventional cages for laying hens from 2012.

The Government remain entirely committed to the conventional cage ban coming into force on 1 January 2012 and to supporting industry during this transitional stage. We want to ensure that those UK producers who have already made significant investment to comply with the legislation, by converting out of conventional cages, are not disadvantaged if other countries do not meet the 2012 deadline.

The Government have accepted the advice of the Farm Animal Welfare Council, an independent advisory body, that a complete ban on beak trimming of laying hens should not be introduced from 1 January 2011 (as is currently in legislation), but should be deferred until it can be demonstrated reliably under commercial conditions that laying hens can be managed without routine beak trimming.

The Government's consultation on the proposed amendments to the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007, to remove the total ban on beak trimming allowing for the routine beak trimming of day old chicks intended for laying to be carried out using the infra-red technique only, closed on the 14 April. Consultation responses are currently being considered.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when her Department plans to implement the ban on conventional battery cages for egg-laying hens. [3621]

**Mr Paice:** The welfare of laying hens is protected in England by the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 and by similar legislation in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The legislation implements EU directive 99/74/EC, which among other welfare advances, bans the use of conventional cages for laying hens from 2012.

The Government remain entirely committed to the conventional cage ban coming into force on 1 January 2012 and to supporting industry during this transitional stage. We want to ensure that those UK producers who have already made significant investment to comply with the legislation, by converting out of conventional cages, are not disadvantaged if other countries do not meet the 2012 deadline.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when her Department plans to implement the ban on beak-trimming of egg-laying hens. [3622]

**Mr Paice:** The Government have accepted the advice of the Farm Animal Welfare Council, an independent advisory body, that a complete ban on beak trimming of laying hens should not be introduced from 1 January 2011 (as is currently in legislation), but should be deferred until it can be demonstrated reliably under commercial conditions that laying hens can be managed without routine beak trimming.

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## Water

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the factors *(a)* affecting current and *(b)* likely to affect future levels of sustainability of national freshwater resources, with particular reference to abstraction levels from rivers. [3290]

**Richard Benyon:** The Environment Agency has assessed factors affecting the current sustainability of national freshwater resources through the Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy process. A full assessment was completed for England and Wales in March 2008 and will be updated by 2011.

In 2009 the Environment Agency published its Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales. This strategy examines the factors which may affect the future availability of water resources up to the 2050s.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the future sustainability of national freshwater resources. [3294]

**Richard Benyon:** In 2009 the Environment Agency published its Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales. In the strategy the Environment Agency assessed the sustainability of future water resources to the 2050s. The strategy includes a series of actions needed to deliver a secure water supply and safeguard the environment.

A copy of the strategy can be found on the Environment Agency's website.

## Water Charges

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consult on the recommendation of the Walker Review of charging for household water and sewerage services on the introduction of a nationwide levy on water customers for nationally significant infrastructure projects. [3292]

**Richard Benyon:** Ministers will consider the recommendations made in the Walker Review ahead of taking decisions about next steps.

## Water Companies: Regulation

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to *(a)* publish the proposed White Paper on the water industry and *(b)* bring forward legislative proposals on the regulation of the water industry. [3296]

**Richard Benyon:** We are currently considering options for the scope and timing of a water White Paper. Any new legislative proposals will follow the publication of this White Paper.

## Water: EU Law

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the country meets its targets for good environmental status under the EU Water Framework Directive. [3295]

**Richard Benyon:** Production of the statutory River Basin Management Plans provides the planning mechanism for ensuring that the country meets its obligations under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The Plans provide an assessment of the current status of water bodies in each river basin district and a summary of agreed measures for achieving the environmental objectives of the WFD. Plans are updated on a six yearly cycle, starting from 2009-15.

The first River Basin Management Plans were developed in consultation with relevant organisations and individuals and were published by the WFD deadline of 22 December 2009. River basin district liaison panels, which included representatives of the key water interests in the river basin district, assisted the Environment Agency in producing draft plans before a formal six month written consultation was carried out.

Mechanisms to achieve the environmental objectives set under the WFD include: compliance with existing regulations, codes of practice and controls on the use of certain substances; Catchment Sensitive Farming activities and agri-environment schemes; and water efficiency measures.

The actions summarised in Annex C of the plans will improve more than 8,300 miles of rivers in England. More than 8,500 investigations that are in progress or planned will provide the evidence base required for further action to protect and improve our water resources within the first and subsequent planning cycles. The plans are available on the Environment Agency's website:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

at:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33106.aspx

### Whales: Conservation

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will oppose any new forms of commercial whaling at the forthcoming International Whaling Committee meeting in Agadir, Morocco; and if she will make a statement. [3122]

**Richard Benyon:** I plan to attend the 62nd annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission where I will call on all countries to oppose any weakening of the current ban. We are taking every opportunity to build strong support for the continuation of the moratorium, including raising this matter with Ministers in Europe and in other countries.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Central America: Storms

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian aid his Department has provided to support areas affected by tropical storm Agatha in *(a)* Guatemala, *(b)* Honduras and *(c)* El Salvador. [3418]

**Mr Duncan:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Secretary of State for International Development on 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 310W, on Central America: Storms.

### Departmental Reviews

**Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Government Departments: reviews, what reviews his Department is undertaking; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* timescale of each is. [2581]

**Mr Duncan:** Over the coming months the Department for International Development (DFID) will review all major spending areas. The Secretary of State for International Development has commissioned a review of DFID's bilateral and multilateral aid programmes.

The purpose of the bilateral aid review is to ensure that we target UK aid where it is needed most and will make the most significant impact on poverty reduction. The review will consider which countries should receive British aid, how much they should receive and which countries should stop receiving British aid. It will also consider which aid instruments are most effective at delivering poverty reduction in different contexts.

The multilateral aid review will examine our funding of international agencies against the UK's objectives on poverty reduction and each agency's ability to deliver results on the ground.

We expect these reviews to be completed later this year.

### Developing Countries: Children

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have responsibility for ensuring that children with disabilities (i) have input into and (ii) are taken account of in his Department's work on education. [2692]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Supported by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State, I have responsibility for the Department for International Development's (DFID) work on the needs of children with disabilities. Officials in the Human Development Group, Governance and Social Development Group and Country Offices are involved in the development and implementation of evidence-based policy for children with disabilities, including education policy.

### Developing Countries: Health Services

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had on the replenishment of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. [2616]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** I wrote to the executive director of the Global Fund, Professor Michel Kazatchkine, on 9 June 2010 to inform him that the Department for International Development (DFID) has launched a Multilateral Aid Review to look at core funding provided by DFID to multilateral agencies. The review will include an assessment of the relevance of the Global Fund to the UK's objectives on poverty reduction and its ability to deliver results on the ground. The results of the review will be an important element in any future funding decisions in respect of the Global Fund.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* transparency, *(b)* accountability and *(c)* effectiveness of the way (i) the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and (ii) other multilateral and bilateral global health programmes spend the UK's contributions. [2617]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has launched a Multilateral Aid Review which will look at core funding provided from DFID headquarters to multilateral agencies. It will include an assessment of the relevance of each organisation to the UK's objectives on poverty reduction and their ability to deliver results on the ground.

This review, alongside a review of our bilateral aid programme and our humanitarian response will be integral to maximising the effectiveness of the UK's development efforts. The results of the Multilateral Aid Review will be an important element in any future funding decisions in respect of the Global Fund.

### Developing Countries: Politics and Government

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on supporting developing countries to achieve good governance. [2446]

**Mr O'Brien:** In "The Coalition: our programme for government", the government laid out our commitment to

> "use the aid budget to support the development of local democratic institutions, civil society groups, the media and enterprise; and support efforts to tackle corruption".

The Department for International Development (DFID) will take this agenda forward. For example we will work to: empower citizens and make governments and donors more transparent and accountable; help build effective states in fragile and conflict affected countries; and tackle corruption.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Ascension Island

**Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 19 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 273W, on Ascension Island, whether the Ascension Island government and council have considered the draft report. [3487]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Island Council is considering the report and is consulting the major Employing Organisations on Ascension Island as part of its considerations.

**Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the financial situation on Ascension Island on the island's services and amenities. [3503]

**Mr Bellingham:** The current financial situation on Ascension Island is difficult, as it is in much of the rest of the world. The Ascension Island Government has recently made a number of significant efficiency savings through its restructuring and modernisation programme and will continue to strive to provide the essential services required on the island.

**Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the projected budget deficit is for *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12 for Ascension Island. [3504]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Ascension Island Government (AIG) is responsible for its budget. However I understand that a small surplus is projected for the end of the current financial year, provided all pay their assessed taxes, and that the AIG continues with its restructuring and modernisation programme. I also understand that no forecast for the 2011-12 budget has been carried out.

**Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress he has made in discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence on the future financial arrangements for Ascension Island. [3505]

**Mr Bellingham:** Ascension Island Government (AIG)'s financial arrangements are the responsibility of the Island Council. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence (MOD) are however in discussions to work towards helping to achieve a solution to the ongoing dispute between AIG and MoD and to ensure a sustainable future for Ascension Island.

**Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what each income stream of the Ascension Island government was in each of the last five financial years; what the source is of each such stream; and if he will make a statement. [3506]

**Mr Bellingham:** This is a matter for the Ascension Island Government (AIG). The AIG is responsible for its own budget and holds this information.

### Crimes of Violence: Females

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure the co-ordination of measures by Government departments to tackle violence against women overseas. [3171]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Tackling violence against women overseas is a priority issue for the UK. The Government are committed to developing a coherent and strategic approach to this issue, building on the work we are already doing bilaterally with partner countries, and at the UN, to identify opportunities to increase our impact.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in discussion with the Department for International Development, Ministry of Defence, Home Office and the Government Equalities Office to take this work forward.

### Cyprus: Peace Negotiations

**Mr Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress in talks between the leaders of the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots on Cyprus; what his Department's objectives are for the outcome of those talks; and if he will make a statement. [3549]

**Mr Lidington:** This is a UN-led process, by Cypriots for Cypriots, aimed at reaching an agreed settlement to the Cyprus problem for the benefit of all those on the island. The reunification of Cyprus would be the best thing for both communities, and the Government will do all they can to support the leaders as they work towards this. We welcome the resumption of negotiations in Cyprus under the agreed UN parameters and urge both leaders to work together to achieve a comprehensive settlement, based on a bizonal, bicommunal federation with political equality. The two leaders are currently discussing the issue of property and regular meetings are scheduled throughout June and July.

### Diplomatic Service: Recruitment

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to take steps to increase the number of staff from working-class backgrounds recruited to HM Diplomatic Service. [2275]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) strives for a highly talented workforce which represents and reflects the diversity of modern Britain. The FCO's Partner Universities Placement Scheme has offered high-calibre undergraduates from low income backgrounds training placements at the FCO every summer since 2008. We continue to invest in that scheme.

Our outreach programmes aim to attract talented applicants from diverse backgrounds. From 2010 the Cabinet Office will begin collecting and publishing data on the socio-economic background of entrants to the Senior Civil Service and the Civil Service Fast Stream. This will include Fast Stream applicants who go on to join the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

### European Parliament

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 356, on the European Parliament, what answer he received from his French counterpart. [3489]

**Mr Lidington:** The French Europe Minister stated that the long-standing French position on maintaining the European Parliament's presence in Strasbourg remained unchanged.

### Farai Maguwu

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek agreement at EU level for an investigation of allegations that Abbey Chikane and the Zimbabwean authorities have targeted and threatened Farai Maguwu of the Centre for Research and Development in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [2771]

**Mr Bellingham:** We are deeply concerned about the treatment of Farai Maguwu and more broadly by the recent increase in arbitrary arrests, politically-inspired harassment and detention of civil society activists in Zimbabwe. We will continue to monitor Maguwu's case and the accusations against him, including by attending court hearings where possible, and urge the Government of Zimbabwe to respect the rule of law. We will urge the EU also to do so, in its capacity as a Kimberley Process member.

### Floribert Chebeya

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Floribert Chebeya in Democratic Republic of Congo. [2813]

**Mr Bellingham:** I am deeply concerned at the death of Mr Floribert Chebeya and made a statement to that effect on 3 June. The EU High Representative Cathy Ashton has also issued a statement of serious concern.

Our ambassador in Kinshasa raised our concerns with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 3 June. President Kabila has ordered an investigation into the death of Mr Chebeya. A number of police officers have been arrested and the Inspector General of Police Mr John Numbi has been suspended.

A Dutch forensics team were in DRC last week where they participated in an autopsy with the Congolese authorities. They have not yet been able to establish a cause of death, but will continue their investigations and will produce a report in the coming weeks.

We will continue to follow developments closely, and press for a full, proper and transparent investigation to take place. We will stay in communication with the Government of DRC and international partners who share our concerns.

### Government Hospitality: Wines

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many bottles of wine from each *(a)* region of origin and *(b)* vintage are held in the Government hospitality wine cellar; [1941]

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many bottles of *(a)* red wine, *(b)* white wine, *(c)* champagne and *(d)* fortified wine there are in the Government Wine Cellar. [2118]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Government Hospitality (GH) wine cellar has held between 38,000 and 39,000 bottles of wine for the last five years. Excluding beverage wines, the most recent independent stock-take in April 2010 indicated that the cellar contained:

25,883 bottles of red wine

6,828 bottles of white wine

1,779 bottles of champagne

2,975 bottles of fortified wine.

80% of the stock is French (from Bordeaux, Burgundy, Rhone, Loire, Champagne and Alsace). Of the remaining stock 7% is Portuguese, 2% English and Welsh, 2% German, 1% Australian, 1% Italian and 1% American. Small quantities of Spanish, Austrian, Argentinean, Chilean, South African and New Zealand wines are also held. As reserves are used GH is able to diversify its stock as appropriate, while taking into account usage requirements, quality and value for money.

It is not possible to give a detailed breakdown of the numbers of bottles per vintage of each region of origin without incurring disproportionate costs. The cellar stock levels are regularly reassessed and its performance and value for money are reviewed throughout the year.

### Palestinians: Human Rights

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of human rights violations by members of Hamas in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [R] [2972]

**Alistair Burt:** Hamas has had a poor record in Gaza from the moment it violently ousted Fatah. Human rights organisations and other non-governmental organisations in Gaza are increasingly concerned about restrictions on their own activities and on the wider curtailing of personal freedoms.

We share these concerns, including regarding violent harassment of political opponents, violent retribution—including summary executions—against those Hamas deem collaborators with Israel, arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and a crackdown on women's freedom.

The UK calls on Hamas to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles, unconditionally to release Gilad Shalit, who has been held in captivity for just under four years, and to end its interference with the operations of non-governmental organisations and UN agencies in Gaza.

### Palestinians: International Assistance

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received recent reports on the alleged closure by Hamas security forces of *(a)* the Women and Children Society, *(b)* the Palestinian Mini-Parliament and *(c)* the South Society for Palestinian Women's Health; and if he will make a statement. [2792]

**Alistair Burt:** We understand that Hamas' Internal Security Unit have ordered the closure until further notice of four organisations: the South Society for Women's Health, Women Child Development Association, Bonat al-Mustagbal Association and Sharek Youth Forum which is a UN partner organisation. We also understand that these organisations had their offices raided and equipment confiscated by Hamas' Internal Security Unit on 31 May.

We call on Hamas to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles, to release Gilad Shalit unconditionally, and to end its interference with the operations of non-governmental organisations and UN agencies in Gaza.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the alleged refusal of Hamas to accept aid transported from the flotilla ships; and if he will make a statement. [2915]

**Alistair Burt:** We understand that Israel offered to transfer some of the aid to Gaza, but that Hamas refused to accept it. However, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) report that five truckloads of the flotilla aid have now been distributed within Gaza, facilitated by the Palestinian Authority co-ordination committee.

What is important is that we focus now on the longer term issue of opening up Gaza to the humanitarian and reconstruction aid that it needs, and the flow of trade that will be essential to building up Gaza's economy, while at the same time ensuring that arms are not being transferred to Hamas in Gaza.

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the lawfulness under international law of the Israeli interception of the Gaza convoy in international waters. [3352]

**Alistair Burt:** As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in his statement to the House on 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 437-39WS we are seriously concerned about the seizure of British nationals in international waters, and that aspect of the Israeli operation must form a key part of the investigation into events. But until we know the facts of what happened we cannot comment further.

The announcement by the Government of Israel of an independent public Commission, including international observers, is an important step forward. Clearly the Commission must provide a full, credible, impartial and independent investigation that the international community can respect. We will be better able to judge whether this standard has been met as its work develops. It is important that the Commission is able to proceed swiftly, transparently and rigorously.

### Sudan: Elections

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that the forthcoming elections and referendum in South Sudan are free of violence and human rights violations. [3086]

**Mr Bellingham:** The Government are concerned about the human rights abuses and violent incidents which were associated with the elections held in Sudan in April 2010. We made clear our concerns to the Sudanese authorities and we regret that more was not done to address these.

We will remain closely engaged and provide strong support including on security issues, in the run-up to the Referendum on Self-Determination for South Sudan in January 2011. We continue to emphasise the need for the Sudanese authorities to ensure a credible and peaceful process. We will be providing significant assistance to this end and we will urge the UN Mission in Sudan to play a central role.

### Unmanned Air Vehicles

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received representations on the report by Philip Alston to the UN Human Rights Council on the use of drone planes. [1950]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The UK is mentioned in a list of 12 countries who either use drones or are looking to acquire the capability immediately. We do not expect to have to respond to the report as it does not criticise the UK. In the debate of the report at the Human Rights Council, the UK was not mentioned by name and we have received no representations.

## WALES

### Departmental Reviews

**Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Government departments: reviews, what reviews her Department is undertaking; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* timescale of each is. [2577]

**Mrs Gillan:** My Department is not currently undertaking any reviews.

### Employment

**Owen Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment she has made of the effects on the local economy of the transfer of jobs out of the South Wales valleys to Cardiff. [2847]

**Mrs Gillan:** It is tragic that parts of the South Wales Valleys continue to have the highest levels of unemployment in Wales.

The coalition Government are committed to helping the poorest communities in Wales to develop strong and sustainable growth by attracting targeted private sector inward investment. We also need to ensure that those out of work or on benefits are not trapped there by a system which has left too many better off on benefits than they would be with a job.

### Local Broadcasting

**Nick Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment she has made of the effect on the creative industries in Wales of the removal of the two year £12 million support for the independently funded new consortia pilot agreed by the last Government; and if she will make a statement. [2969]

**Mrs Gillan:** The coalition Government consider that for the Government to subsidise news consortia would be an inappropriate use of scarce public funding. This kind of funding intervention—to prop-up expensive commercial regional news formats—would send the wrong message and would not provide a commercial incentive.

To remain competitive we must adapt to the considerable changes within the sector and in particular to recent technological advances. Consumers are moving across the variety of platforms—TV, mobile phone, internet. We need to encourage this by ensuring the right regulatory framework that allows these services to be provided on a commercial basis.

During his key note speech on 8 June, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport set out his vision for local media, which included reforming local cross-media ownership rules to relax the rules on local newspapers owning local radio stations or setting up local TV stations. He has asked Nicholas Shott—head of UK Investment Banking at Lazard—to examine the potential for commercially viable local television stations within the local media landscape across the UK. Mr Shott will report back on this exercise in the autumn and then we will be in an informed position to deliver a full local media action plan.

These exciting proposals will also provide new opportunities for the creative industries to help deliver such content in new and innovative ways.

### Television

**Nick Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many times she has met ITV Wales managers since her appointment; and what matters were discussed at each such meeting; [2865]

(2) how many times she has met S4C representatives since her appointment; and what matters were discussed at each such meeting; [2866]

(3) how many times she has met representatives from the Wales Live consortium since her appointment; and what matters were discussed at each such meeting; [2867]

(4) how many times she has met BBC Wales managers since her appointment; and what matters were discussed at each such meeting. [2870]

**Mrs Gillan:** I have had no formal meetings with these organisations since my appointment but intend to have meetings with Welsh broadcasters in the near future.

## TRANSPORT

### Bus Lanes

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the effect on the flow of other motor traffic of road narrowing schemes to create bus priority lanes; and if he will make a statement. [3078]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport has not received any such representations.

The design and installation of bus lanes, including any monitoring of such schemes, are matters for local highway authorities.

### Crossrail Line: Kent

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is on the extension of Crossrail from Abbey Wood into Kent. [1305]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport's current priority is to continue to progress the committed Crossrail scheme while maintaining its focus on affordability and value for money. The route from Abbey Wood to Gravesend and Ebbsfleet is safeguarded under the terms of the Safeguarding Direction of October 2009 and I expect this to continue. However, any extension would require a strong business case.

### Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many vehicles used the Dartford Crossing in each of the last 24 months; [3089]

(2) how much revenue accrued from vehicles using the Dartford Crossing in each of the last 24 months. [3090]

**Mike Penning:** The Dartford Crossing encompasses both the tunnels and the bridge and charging occurs in both directions.

The figures in the following table cover the Dartford Crossing as a whole. It shows how many vehicles used the Dartford Crossing in each of the last 24 months and also how much revenue was accrued in each month, including revenue for escorts of abnormal loads.

| | Month | Total traffic count (number) | Charging revenue (£) | Abnormal load escort revenue (£) | Total (£) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | May 2010 | 4,410,812 | 6,178,523.43 | 23,941.00 | 6,202,464.43 |
| 2 | April 2010 | 4,293,715 | 6,097,317.92 | 24,802.00 | 6,122,119.92 |
| 3 | March 2010 | 4,312,881 | 6,174,004.56 | 25,578.00 | 6,199,582.56 |
| 4 | February 2010 | 3,758,432 | 5,389,210.60 | 26,106.00 | 5,415,316.60 |
| 5 | January 2010 | 3,503,479 | 5,058,560.17 | 21,231.00 | 5,079,791.17 |
| 6 | December 2009 | 4,013,426 | 5,710,950.82 | 18,774.00 | 5,729,724.82 |
| 7 | November 2009 | 4,130,181 | 5,927,867.96 | 24,580.00 | 5,952,447.96 |
| 8 | October 2009 | 4,498,077 | 6,433,437.95 | 25,244.00 | 6,458,681.95 |
| 9 | September 2009 | 4,438,269 | 6,308,210.68 | 24,257.00 | 6,332,467.68 |
| 10 | August 2009 | 4,725,718 | 6,615,200.27 | 24,303.00 | 6,639,503.27 |
| 11 | July 2009 | 4,713,241 | 6,636,620.69 | 28,800.00 | 6,665,420.69 |
| 12 | June 2009 | 4,465,255 | 6,370,620.28 | 33,259.00 | 6,403,879.28 |
| 13 | May 2009 | 4,414,433 | 6,278,841.01 | 28,975.00 | 6,307,816.01 |
| 14 | April 2009 | 4,274,380 | 6,164,845.47 | 31,915.00 | 6,196,760.47 |
| 15 | March 2009 | 4,264,910 | 6,220,970.58 | 25,129.00 | 6,246,099.58 |
| 16 | February 2009 | 3,555,890 | 5,218,207.34 | 31,893.00 | 5,250,100.34 |
| 17 | January 2009 | 3,783,958 | 5,529,047.99 | 29,022.00 | 5,558,069.99 |
| 18 | December 2008 | 4,056,452 | 5,897,466.14 | 24,920.00 | 5,922,386.14 |
| 19 | November 2008 | 4,202,778 | 5,619,338.92 | 25,054.00 | 5,644,392.92 |
| 20 | October 2008 | 4,547,659 | 5,756,478.53 | 29,435.00 | 5,785,913.53 |
| 21 | September 2008 | 4,439,181 | 5,613,572.20 | 30,000.00 | 5,643,572.20 |
| 22 | August 2008 | 4,753,103 | 5,852,073.25 | 27,840.00 | 5,879,913.25 |
| 23 | July 2008 | 4,779,150 | 6,067,091.81 | 31,356.00 | 6,098,447.81 |
| 24 | June 2008 | 4,471,563 | 5,697,188.59 | 32,381.00 | 5,729,569.59 |

## Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have applied for a *(a)* resident's and *(b)* Dart-Tags discount against the toll for the Dartford Crossing since the resident's discount scheme was introduced; and how many of those who have applied for the resident's discount were resident in Thurrock. [2761]

**Mike Penning:** Since the introduction of the Local Resident Scheme in November 2008, 22,702 people have successfully applied for a residents' discount for the Dartford Crossing; of these 11,506 were resident in Thurrock.

In the same period, there were 30,385 successful applications for a Dart-Tag account.

## Departmental NDPBs

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reductions in expenditure each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible will be expected to make in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* each year from 2011 to 2014. [3415]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** My Department's non-departmental public bodies have not been given specific budget reductions as part of my Department's overall reduction of £689 million for 2010-11. These savings are expected to be made in the central Department and its agencies.

For 2011-12 onwards no budgets have been set as they will be subject to the forthcoming spending review.

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to review the functions of his Department's executive agencies; and if he will make a statement. [3417]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The functions of my Department's Executive agencies will be considered, alongside all other departmental functions, in the context of the review of all Government spending now under way.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reductions are planned to be made in the funding provided by his Department to *(a)* Middlesbrough Council and *(b)* Redcar and Cleveland Council in 2010-11. [1968]

**Norman Baker:** The Government announced on 10 June plans for implementation of the £1.166 billion savings to be made from local Government grants in 2010-11, of which £309 million will be from transport grants.

Further information regarding how these reductions relate to Middlesbrough council and Redcar and Cleveland council can be found in the Libraries of the House and on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of the reductions proposed in expenditure on transport projects. [3496]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** As part of the planned spending review process, I will be reviewing all the Department for Transport's projects and programmes to ensure they represent value for money and are consistent with the Government's objectives, including the need to reduce the deficit, support growth and meet the 2020 carbon reduction targets.

### Electric Vehicles

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which official in his Department is responsible for the implementation of a national recharging network for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. [2898]

**Norman Baker:** Michael Hurwitz heads the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, a team composed of officials from the Departments for Transport, Business Innovation and Skills, and Energy and Climate Change, who are responsible for the UK's ultra-low emission vehicle policy, including this Coalition commitment. An organisation chart for the Office for Low Emission Vehicles can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/165252/OLEVorgchart.pdf

### Local Government Finance: Wales

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes will be made in the grants provided by his Department to local authorities in Wales in 2010-11. [1672]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** Transport is a devolved function, so no grants are made by the Department for Transport to Welsh authorities.

### Public Transport: Expenditure

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid in public subsidy to the *(a)* rail industry and *(b)* bus industry (i) in total and (ii) per passenger journey in the latest period for which figures are available. [1591]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* (i) Total public subsidy figures to the rail industry for 2008-09, the most recent available, can be found in a table in the Office of Rail Regulation's current National Rail Trends publication at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/rolling-c6-misc-180310.pdf

(Table 6.2a).

(ii) Subsidy figures are not compiled per passenger journey, so these are unavailable.

*(b)* The latest figures available for the bus industry are for 2008-09 and are separated between London and the rest of England due to the different nature of the markets (fully regulated and largely deregulated, respectively). The Department for Transport published revised statistics on bus passenger journeys during 2008-09 on 17 June 2010. These are available on the DFT website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/public/bus/

Total public subsidy to the bus industry is made up of the Bus Service Operators Grant and locally tendered subsidised services. Bus operators are reimbursed by local authorities for carrying concessionary bus pass holders so that operators are left no better or worse off for participating in the concessionary travel scheme. This is not a subsidy to the industry so has not been included in these figures.

(i) Total net public subsidy paid to the bus industry in 2008-09 by central and local government was £833 million in London, and £724 million in the rest of England.

(ii) This equated to a net public subsidy of 39 pence per passenger journey in London, and 30 pence in the rest of England.

### Railways: Construction

**Steve Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Exceptional Hardship Scheme which will compensate residents for any effects of prospective High Speed Rail 2 routes will be extended to local business premises. [2868]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** I cannot prejudge the outcome of the current consultation on the proposed Exceptional Hardship Scheme, which ended on 17 June. We have received a number of responses relating to business premises. We will look carefully at the suggestions made by all respondents in deciding how to proceed.

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the decision to exclude from the High Speed Two hardship scheme those properties adjacent to tunnelled sections of the proposed route for the purpose of making such properties eligible for assistance from his Department. [2914]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** I cannot prejudge the outcome of the current consultation on the proposed Exceptional Hardship Scheme (EHS), and reiterate that no decision has yet been taken on what properties would be eligible under any Exceptional Hardship Scheme. Representations on this topic have been received as part of the current consultation. We will look carefully at the suggestions made by all respondents in deciding how to proceed.

### Speed Limits: Cameras

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras there are in Dartford constituency; where each is located; and how many drivers have been prosecuted as a result of evidence obtained from each such camera over the last five years. [3121]

**Mike Penning:** The Department for Transport holds only information about speed cameras operating under the National Safety Camera Programme, which started in 2001 and ended on 31 March 2007. Separate information about cameras operating in Dartford is not held. The number of camera sites operating in Kent at the end of the National Safety Camera Programme was 129. Since then, the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The number of cameras currently in place and their location will therefore be a matter for Kent county council and the local road safety partnership.

The number of drivers prosecuted as a result of enforcement by each speed camera in Kent is not held by the Department. However, details of fixed penalty notices issued and subsequently paid in Kent over the past five years are outlined in the following table which also includes penalties issued for red light offences:

*Speed and red light fixed penalty notices paid in Kent over the last five years*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 30,994 |
| 2003-04 | 54,929 |
| 2004-05 | 60,959 |
| 2005-06 | 50,285 |
| 2006-07 | 61,206 |

### Transport: North West

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what grants his Department has allocated to *(a)* Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council and *(b)* other local authorities in the North West for which funds have not yet been released. [2842]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport has allocated a range of grants to Wigan metropolitan borough council and other local authorities in the north-west, for which payments are due to be made at various stages over the course of 2010-11.

The Government have made clear that their most urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record deficit. To help achieve this, on 10 June the Department for Communities and Local Government announced £1.166 billion of savings from grants to local authorities. Aside from these grants, the Department is not withholding the release of funding allocated to north-west authorities in 2010-11.

The following table sets out the timing of payments for the Department's transport grants.

| *Grant* | *Payment timing* |
|---|---|
| Integrated Transport Block | Quarterly – next in July |
| Capital de-trunking | Quarterly – first mid May. This payment was being delayed in anticipation of the CLG announcement on 10 June regarding local authority budget reductions; it will now be paid at a reduced level |
| Maintenance - Primary Route Network | When claimed |
| Emergency funding for Cumbria | When claimed |
| Exceptional maintenance | When claimed |
| Major Projects (LA) | Quarterly in arrears |
| Road safety (capital) | Funding cancelled. See CLG announcement on 10 June regarding local authority budget reductions |
| Green bus fund 2009 | When claimed |
| Green bus fund 2010 | When claimed |
| Station accessibility (access for all) | When claimed |
| Cycle Towns | Quarterly in arrears – next in September |
| Cycling – Finding new solutions | Quarterly in arrears |
| Urban congestion fund | Further details to be announced in due course |
| Smart ticketing | Two payments |
| Nexus (Tyne and Wear Metro) | Monthly |
| Pot Holes – budget 2010 funding | Two payments |
| Concessionary fares – top up | Quarterly |
| Kickstart – 2009 | Funding cancelled. See CLG announcement on 10 June regarding local authority budget reductions |
| Cycle training | When claimed |
| Other bus grants | When claimed |

| *Grant* | *Payment timing* |
|---|---|
| RBSG – bus grant | Monthly instalments |
| School Travel Advisers | Monthly instalments |
| Revenue de-trunking | Monthly instalments |
| Road safety revenue grant | Monthly instalments |

### Travel

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to support the promotion of *(a)* cycling, *(b)* walking and *(c)* other non-car travel initiatives. [2899]

**Norman Baker:** The coalition agreement says that we will support sustainable travel initiatives, including the promotion of cycling and walking. In addition, we will explore the opportunities provided by alternatives to travel. Our approach will be considered in more detail as part of the spending review later this year.

### Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement of 24 May 2010 and pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 69W, on public expenditure: Wales, if he will provide details of his Department's non-devolved public expenditure savings that will be incurred in Wales, including an estimate of the financial savings. [2938]

**Mr Philip Hammond** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* My Department is making in-year expenditure savings of £683 million.

Of this figure, Network Rail is finding savings of £100 million, and also deferring £17 million worth of lower priority schemes. Network Rail has not given any indication of what portion of this proposed reduction in expenditure will affect Wales.

The savings from Transport for London will not affect Wales nor will those from local government funding or from the Highways Agency, which are devolved areas.

The other element of the in-year saving is the £112 million savings from efficiencies in direct departmental spend. My Department's agencies, some of which are based in or have regional offices in Wales, will be taking their share of these. No estimate has been made of the savings to be incurred in Wales.

## JUSTICE

### Burglary: Self-defence

**Miss Anne McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to review the law on homeowners using force to protect their property from burglars. [2945]

**Mr Blunt:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert) on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 735. We are reviewing the law and its interpretation carefully and will explore all options before bringing forward proposals. We must make sure that householders protecting their homes from intruders have the appropriate level of legal protection and a clear understanding of their rights.

## Cemeteries

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of gravestones which have temporary wooden stakes for health and safety reasons. [3419]

**Mr Djanogly:** We have not made any such estimate. Last year, the Ministry of Justice conducted a sample survey of burial ground operators to assess how far they were aware of, and acting on, the Ministry's recent guidance on dealing with unstable memorials. The results indicate that memorials presenting a risk of causing serious injury are now more likely to be identified by suitable signs instead of being supported by stakes or laid down. We are keeping under review the need for any further action, in conjunction with burial professionals.

## Cookham Wood Secure Training Centre

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children of each (*a*) sex, (*b*) race and (*c*) age have been (i) remanded to and (ii) received into Medway Secure Training Centre in each year since it opened. [2499]

**Mr Blunt:** The following tables show the number of custodial remand episodes and total custodial episodes (including remands) started in Medway Secure Training Centre in each year from 2001 to 2009 by sex, ethnicity and age. Complete data are not available for the period before 2001.

An "episode" is a period a young person has spent in custody. In some cases, a young person starts more than one custodial episode during a single 12-month period, either for a new offence or because of a change in the legal basis for his or her detention, such as from remand to sentence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

*Custodial episodes by sex, 2001-09*

| | *Remand episodes* | | | *Total custodial episodes* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Female* | *Male* | *Total* | *Female* | *Male* | *Total* |
| 2001 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 37 | 88 | 125 |
| 2002 | 22 | 2 | 24 | 52 | 100 | 152 |
| 2003 | 36 | 29 | 65 | 116 | 168 | 284 |
| 2004 | 32 | 26 | 58 | 114 | 120 | 234 |
| 2005 | 33 | 23 | 56 | 114 | 121 | 235 |
| 2006 | 39 | 24 | 63 | 128 | 106 | 234 |
| 2007 | 20 | 35 | 55 | 91 | 124 | 215 |
| 2008 | 26 | 26 | 52 | 122 | 108 | 230 |
| 2009 | 21 | 41 | 62 | 88 | 157 | 245 |

*Custodial episodes by ethnic group, 2001-09*

*Remand episodes*

| *Ethnicity* | *Asian* | *Black* | *Mixed* | *Not available* | *Other* | *White* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2002 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 24 |
| 2003 | 0 | 16 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 38 | 65 |
| 2004 | 2 | 15 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 34 | 58 |
| 2005 | 0 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 35 | 56 |
| 2006 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 35 | 63 |
| 2007 | 0 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 33 | 55 |
| 2008 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 26 | 52 |
| 2009 | 4 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 40 | 62 |

*Total custodial episodes*

| *Ethnicity* | *Asian* | *Black* | *Mixed* | *Not Available* | *Other* | *White* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 98 | 125 |
| 2002 | 4 | 25 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 101 | 152 |
| 2003 | 3 | 47 | 22 | 11 | 5 | 196 | 284 |
| 2004 | 9 | 37 | 22 | 7 | 6 | 153 | 234 |
| 2005 | 5 | 30 | 24 | 9 | 4 | 163 | 235 |
| 2006 | 6 | 38 | 26 | 13 | 3 | 148 | 234 |
| 2007 | 2 | 38 | 15 | 11 | 2 | 147 | 215 |
| 2008 | 1 | 43 | 23 | 24 | 1 | 138 | 230 |
| 2009 | 7 | 37 | 28 | 14 | 1 | 158 | 245 |

*Custodial episodes by age, 2001-09*

| Age | Remand episodes | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | Total |
| 2001 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2002 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 24 |
| 2003 | 1 | 8 | 22 | 20 | 13 | 1 | 65 |
| 2004 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 18 | 19 | 0 | 58 |
| 2005 | 1 | 3 | 20 | 15 | 16 | 1 | 56 |
| 2006 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 13 | 29 | 0 | 63 |
| 2007 | 1 | 3 | 23 | 12 | 16 | 0 | 55 |
| 2008 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 15 | 17 | 0 | 52 |
| 2009 | 1 | 5 | 22 | 17 | 17 | 0 | 62 |

*Custodial episodes by age, 2001-09*

| Age | Total custodial episodes | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | Total |
| 2001 | 5 | 17 | 60 | 32 | 11 | 0 | 125 |
| 2002 | 4 | 21 | 58 | 46 | 23 | 0 | 152 |
| 2003 | 4 | 23 | 103 | 94 | 57 | 3 | 284 |
| 2004 | 2 | 16 | 80 | 65 | 71 | 0 | 235 |
| 2005 | 1 | 13 | 81 | 67 | 71 | 2 | 234 |
| 2006 | 1 | 4 | 83 | 60 | 74 | 12 | 235 |
| 2007 | 3 | 7 | 79 | 46 | 68 | 12 | 234 |
| 2008 | 1 | 16 | 71 | 60 | 64 | 9 | 215 |
| 2009 | 1 | 14 | 66 | 97 | 58 | 9 | 245 |

### Departmental Manpower

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men were employed by his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [2743]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Office for National Statistics' Statistical Bulletin on public sector employment, published on 16 June 2010, sets out the number of staff employed by central Government Departments.

The headcount figures for the Ministry of Justice show that there were 41,060 women employed and 44,320 men employed as at 31 March 2010.

The staff numbers provided add together civil servants from the following:

Ministry of Justice HQ, NOMS Agency, HMCS, Tribunals, Office of the Public Guardian, Wales Office, Scotland Office, UK Supreme Court, Land Registry and The National Archives.

*Note:*

The Office for National Statistics round to the nearest 10.

### Judges: Northumberland

**Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of court starts in Northumberland of sharing a deputy justices clerk with North Tyneside. [3137]

**Mr Djanogly:** The number of court starts will not be affected by an as yet unevaluated proposal to have one deputy justices clerk managing the legal advisers in both Northumberland and North Tyneside. As ever, the number of court sittings will be driven by factors such as work loads, fluctuations in the business and waiting times.

The proposal regarding the deputy justices clerks is actually about management structures and the need to standardise the ratio of legal managers to legal advisers across the country generally. The proposal from the justices clerk is merely an initial response to the publication of a service-wide activity based cost model and has not formally been considered, or approved, at any level. I should clarify that it is unlikely to take effect for some time yet. However, when it does, it will not dictate how many sittings are listed in those courts.

**Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason it is proposed to appoint two additional district judges in the Northumbria area; and what estimate he has made of the likely total annual cost of the additional appointments. [3138]

**Mr Djanogly:** Up until recently, the Area Director for Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria was working on a business case to support the introduction of two additional magistrates' district judges to the Northumbria Area. However, given the need for all government bodies to review how they conduct their operations in the light of the current economic climate, that business case has been put on hold.

By way of background, although Northumbria already has two magistrates' district judges, that number is fewer than areas elsewhere in the country with similar workloads. The Area Director believes that additional district judges will help improve case management and increase throughput. Consequently she was considering putting forward a case to make Northumbria's numbers commensurate with those found nationally. Before any such request is submitted, formal consultation will be undertaken with the Northumbria Benches and other stakeholders, where the reasons for the business case will be set out. I can confirm that Bench Chairmen have been informed of the decision not to progress the case at this stage.

As the matter is not being advanced at present, there will be no change to the overall cost of magistrates' business in Northumbria.

## Legal Aid Scheme

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce delays in payments to solicitors' firms by the Legal Services Commission for legal services provided through *(a)* the community legal service and *(b)* the criminal defence service. [2973]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is still processing the majority of payments within its published target times.

Both civil and criminal legal aid providers receive Standard Monthly Payments for Legal Help (civil) and for criminal work in the police station and the magistrates court. Standard Monthly Payments guarantee cash flow, enabling providers to manage their finances. These monthly payments continue to be made on time. The LSC also has a target to pay all bills within six weeks (with the exception of crime litigator fees for which an eight-week target applies) and will review any claim where a bill is not paid within this timescale.

For Civil Licensed Work, the LSC acknowledges that payments are currently taking longer than in the equivalent period last year. This is due to a significant increase in numbers of claims in addition to tighter checks and controls that the LSC has put in place for the scrutiny of claims following the National Audit Office's qualification of the LSC's 2008-09 accounts. The LSC has made additional staff available to process payments with the aim of addressing the increase in volume.

The LSC has also recently reminded providers about the supporting information that they need to submit to help it to process claims as quickly as possible and ensure that public money is being spent only on those who qualify for help.

## Prison Sentences

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many men had been released after serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection on the latest date for which figures are available; [2500]

(2) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men who served an indeterminate sentence for public protection remain under supervision. [2501]

**Mr Blunt:** Up to 4 June 2010, 133 prisoners serving an Indeterminate Sentence for Public Protection (IPP) or Detention for Public Protection (DPP) had been released, of which 124 prisoners were male and nine female. Of the total prisoners released, two male prisoners were released early for compassionate reasons. The remainder were released by the Parole Board once the offender had served the minimum custodial term (tariff).

Of the total number of prisoners (male and female) released, 34 have been subsequently recalled to custody and six have been deported. This leaves 93 offenders who remain subject to supervision in the community as of 4 June, of which 88 are men and five are women.

These figures do not include releases relating to those sentenced to an IPP that was later quashed or those prisoners who had died following release but prior to 4 June 2010.

The figures were taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) in the National Offender Management Service, and, as with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing. The PPUD is a live database, updated on a regular basis.

As a result, snapshots taken in consecutive days will contain differences reflecting updates.

**Mr Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection; and how many of these are former servicemen. [3239]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of people serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) or detention for public protection (DPP) on the 4 June 2010 was 6189. Of these, 93 are currently serving their sentence in the community under licence following their release from custody.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not hold centrally information on how many offenders serving IPPs are former servicemen.

These figures do not include releases relating to those sentenced to an IPP/DPP which was later quashed or those prisoners who had died following release but prior to 4 June 2010. The figures were taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) in the National Offender Management Service, and, as with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing. The PPUD is a live database, updated on a regular basis. As a result, snapshots taken in consecutive days will contain differences reflecting updates.

## Prisoners' Release: Disclosure of Information

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his policy is on using the provisions of the Data Protection (Processing of Sensitive Personal Data) Order 2009 to provide information to hon. Members in respect of *(a)* the release from prison of certain high risk offenders and *(b)* the presence of such offenders in the constituencies of hon. Members; [3532]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Data Protection (Processing of Sensitive Personal Data) Order 2009. [2958]

**Mr Blunt:** The Data Protection (Processing of Sensitive Personal Data) Order 2009, underpins the Critical Public Protection Case Notification Scheme, which allows Members who wish to be informed of the release of a dangerous offender into their constituency to sign a confidentiality agreement and receive notification of such releases. The scheme allows for Members to be reassured of the robust arrangements in place to manage those offenders on their release from custody and to make further inquiries.

As I made clear in my answer of 17 June, *Official Report*, column 567W, and in my letter to all MPs on 11 June 2010, I am continuing the scheme. The risk management plans for relevant offenders involve the close collaboration between the Police and Probation Trusts through the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Offender managers will supervise offenders to ensure that they comply with their licence conditions and, where they do not, they are liable to recall to custody.

Since the Data Protection (Processing of Sensitive Personal Data) Order 2009 was approved by Parliament, 16 notification letters have been sent out to 13 Members. As the vast majority of relevant offenders are released initially into Approved Premises, formerly known as probation and bail hostels, notifications will mostly be sent to Members with an Approved Premises in their constituencies.

### Rape

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent research his Department has evaluated on the level of stigma associated with an accusation of *(a)* rape, *(b)* domestic violence, *(c)* murder, *(d)* child abuse and *(e)* other sexual offences; [2744]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of false allegations of *(a)* rape, *(b)* other violent crimes and *(c)* all other offences made in the last three years. [2745]

**Mr Blunt:** I refer the right hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Warrington North (Helen Jones) on 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 569W.

The Director of Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice has been asked to compile all the available research and statistics relating to this issue into an independent report and publish this before summer recess.

### Rape: Rights of Accused

**Sheila Gilmore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions his Department has had with Rape Crisis on the proposals to grant anonymity to defendants in rape cases. [3069]

**Mr Blunt:** Ministers and officials in my Department and in the Home Office have not as yet held any discussions with Rape Crisis about the proposals.

### Reparation by Offenders

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent assessment is of the cost effectiveness of restorative justice programmes and their effect on the recidivism rate. [3111]

**Mr Blunt:** The term 'restorative justice' is widely used to describe a range of interventions, both formal and informal. It can refer to interventions where an offender takes steps to make good their offence in some way and/or to interventions that give victims the chance to explain the impact that their experience of being a victim has had on them, or to seek an apology, or answers to any questions they may have, from an offender. A range of restorative justice approaches are in use within the criminal justice system.

The evidence base for restorative justice approaches is complex and to date, there has been no comprehensive cost benefit analysis of restorative justice approaches. I have asked officials to undertake this work.

### Sexual Offences

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many of those convicted of domestic violence offences between 2003 and 2010 had a history of a consensual sexual relationship with the person against whom their offences were perpetrated; [3601]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010 to the hon. Member for Wolverhampton North East, *Official Report*, column 727, on rape defendants (anonymity), in which completed cases a woman was murdered between 2003 and 2010 by someone well known to her and where there was a history of consensual sexual relationship. [3616]

**Mr Blunt:** The Director of Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice is to compile all the available research and statistics relating to this issue into an independent report and publish this before summer recess.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Energy: Subsidies

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on implementation of the Johannesburg Summit agreement on phasing out energy subsidies which inhibit sustainable development; and if he will make a statement. [2334]

**Charles Hendry:** G20 countries committed at Pittsburgh in 2009 to rationalise and phase out over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption. Progress will be discussed at the Toronto summit later this month.

### Human Tissue Analysis in UK Nuclear Facilities Inquiry

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish the report of the Redfern Inquiry on examination of tissue taken from individuals who had worked in the nuclear industry in time to ensure that hon. Members are able to debate its findings before the summer adjournment. [3652]

**Charles Hendry:** There is currently no publication date for the report of the Redfern inquiry on examination of tissue taken from individuals who had worked in the nuclear industry. We do expect to make an announcement before summer recess.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the subsidy for the proposed £20 billion building programme for new nuclear plants. [3543]

**Charles Hendry:** The coalition agreement is clear that there will be no public subsidy for new nuclear power stations.

## Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's budget is for the clean up of existing nuclear waste in 2010-11. [3544]

**Charles Hendry:** The total planned expenditure for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the body responsible for the clean up of the UK's historic civil public sector nuclear, for 2010-11 is £2.84 billion. The Department directly funds £1.69 billion and the remainder is generated by NDA's commercial operations.

## Renewable Energy

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his plans are for the future of the Renewable Heat Incentive; and if he will make a statement. [3051]

**Gregory Barker:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Michael Fallon) on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 367-368W.

**Mr Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of electricity was generated from renewable sources of energy in each of the last 20 years; and what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on comparable figures for *(a)* Germany, *(b)* France, *(c)* Italy, *(d)* Spain, *(e)* the Netherlands, *(f)* Austria, *(g)* Finland, *(h)* Denmark and (i) Sweden. [3541]

**Charles Hendry:** The information requested is as follows:

Table 1 shows the proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources of energy between 1990 and 2009. Data for 2009 are provisional and exclude an estimate for non-bio degradable waste use.

*Table 1: UK Generation from renewable sources, 1990-2009*

| | *Total UK Generation (GWh)* | *UK Generation from Renewable sources (GWh)* | *Proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources (%)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1990 | 319,739 | 5,812 | 1.8 |
| 1991 | 322,875 | 5,320 | 1.6 |
| 1992 | 321,043 | 6,398 | 2.0 |
| 1993 | 323,102 | 5,717 | 1.8 |
| 1994 | 324,978 | 6,956 | 2.1 |
| 1995 | 334,047 | 6,871 | 2.1 |
| 1996 | 350,868 | 5,685 | 1.6 |
| 1997 | 350,666 | 6,945 | 2.0 |
| 1998 | 362,702 | 8,648 | 2.4 |
| 1999 | 368,151 | 9,616 | 2.6 |
| 2000 | 377,069 | 9,914 | 2.6 |
| 2001 | 384,778 | 9,549 | 2.5 |
| 2002 | 387,246 | 11,127 | 2.9 |
| 2003 | 398,209 | 10,600 | 2.7 |
| 2004 | 393,929 | 14,147 | 3.6 |
| 2005 | 398,303 | 16,940 | 4.3 |
| 2006 | 397,292 | 18,116 | 4.6 |
| 2007 | 397,044 | 19,646 | 4.9 |
| 2008 | 389,649 | 21,597 | 5.5 |
| 2009 | 371,754 | 24,680 | 6.6 |

Table 2 shows similar data obtained from Eurostat, for 1997 to 2007. However, this uses a different definition, showing renewable generation as a proportion of gross electricity consumption.

*Table 2: Electricity generated from renewable sources as % of gross electricity consumption, for European countries, 1997-2007*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU(27 countries) | 13.1 | 13.4 | 13.4 | 13.8 | 14.4 | 12.9 | 12.9 | 13.9 | 14 | 14.6 | 15.6 |
| EU(25 countries) | 12.8 | 13.1 | 13.1 | 13.7 | 14.2 | 12.7 | 12.7 | 13.7 | 13.6 | 14.3 | 15.5 |
| EU(15 countries) | 13.8 | 14 | 14 | 14.6 | 15.2 | 13.5 | 13.7 | 14.7 | 14.5 | 15.3 | 16.6 |
| Belgium | 1 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.8 | 3.9 | 4.2 |
| Bulgaria | 7 | 8.1 | 7.7 | 7.4 | 4.7 | 6 | 7.8 | 8.9 | 11.8 | 11.2 | 7.5 |
| Czech Republic | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 4 | 4.6 | 2.8 | 4 | 4.5 | 4.9 | 4.7 |
| Denmark | 8.9 | 11.7 | 13.3 | 16.7 | 17.3 | 19.9 | 23.2 | 27.1 | 28.3 | 26 | 29 |
| Germany | 4.3 | 4.8 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 9.5 | 10.5 | 12 | 15.1 |
| Estonia | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Ireland | 3.8 | 5.5 | 5 | 4.9 | 4.2 | 5.4 | 4.3 | 5.1 | 6.8 | 8.5 | 9.3 |
| Greece | 8.6 | 7.9 | 9.5 | 7.7 | 5.2 | 6.2 | 9.7 | 9.5 | 10 | 12.1 | 6.8 |
| Spain | 19.7 | 18.6 | 12.8 | 15.7 | 20.7 | 13.8 | 21.7 | 18.5 | 15 | 17.7 | 20 |
| France | 15.2 | 14.4 | 16.5 | 15.1 | 16.5 | 13.7 | 13 | 12.9 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.3 |
| Italy | 16 | 15.6 | 16.9 | 16 | 16.8 | 14.3 | 13.7 | 15.9 | 14.1 | 14.5 | 13.7 |
| Cyprus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Latvia | 46.7 | 68.2 | 45.5 | 47.7 | 46.1 | 39.3 | 35.4 | 47.1 | 48.4 | 37.7 | 36.4 |
| Lithuania | 2.6 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 3 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 4.6 |
| Luxembourg | 2 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 1.6 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.7 |
| Hungary | 0.8 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 2.3 | 4.6 | 3.7 | 4.6 |
| Malta | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Netherlands | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 3.9 | 4 | 3.6 | 4.7 | 5.7 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 7.6 |
| Austria | 67.5 | 67.9 | 71.3 | 72.4 | 67.2 | 66.1 | 53.1 | 58.7 | 57.4 | 56.6 | 59.8 |

*Table 2: Electricity generated from renewable sources as % of gross electricity consumption, for European countries, 1997-2007*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Poland | 1.8 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 2 | 2 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 3.5 |
| Portugal | 38.3 | 36 | 20.5 | 29.4 | 34.2 | 20.8 | 36.4 | 24.4 | 16 | 29.4 | 30.1 |
| Romania | 30.5 | 35 | 36.7 | 28.8 | 28.4 | 30.8 | 24.3 | 29.9 | 35.8 | 31.4 | 26.9 |
| Slovenia | 26.9 | 29.2 | 31.6 | 31.7 | 30.5 | 25.4 | 22 | 29.1 | 24.2 | 24.4 | 22.1 |
| Slovakia | 14.5 | 15.5 | 16.3 | 16.9 | 17.9 | 19.2 | 12.4 | 14.4 | 16.7 | 16.6 | 16.6 |
| Finland | 25.3 | 27.4 | 26.3 | 28.5 | 25.7 | 23.7 | 21.8 | 28.3 | 26.9 | 24 | 26 |
| Sweden | 49.1 | 52.4 | 50.6 | 55.4 | 54.1 | 46.9 | 39.9 | 46.1 | 54.3 | 48.2 | 52.1 |
| United Kingdom | 1.9 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.7 | 4.3 | 4.6 | 5.1 |
| Croatia | 38.8 | 38.3 | 45.1 | 40 | 42.7 | 33.9 | 29.4 | 41 | 36.2 | 33.4 | 23 |
| FYR Macedonia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Turkey | 36.1 | 37.3 | 29.5 | 24.3 | 19.1 | 25.6 | 25.2 | 30.9 | 24.7 | 25.5 | 19.2 |
| Iceland | 99.9 | 99.9 | 99.9 | 99.9 | 100 | 99.9 | 99.9 | 100 | 99.9 | 100 | |
| Liechtenstein | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Norway | 95.3 | 96.2 | 100.7 | 112.2 | 96.2 | 107.3 | 92.1 | 89.7 | 108.4 | 98.4 | 106.1 |
| Switzerland | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

### Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria the Government plans to put in place for eligibility for grants for feed-in tariffs. [3050]

**Charles Hendry:** The GB feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme allows combination of grant and FITs payments if the authority is satisfied that the making of FIT payments in respect of the installation would be in accordance with the law relating to state aid.

The European Commission published their decision in relation to state aid and the GB FITs scheme on 14 June 2010. The decision—number N94/2010—is available from the EC website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/register/ii/by_case_nr_n2010_0090.html#94

We are considering the implications of this decision on the FITs scheme in the context of our overall approach to energy and climate change. We will make an announcement in due course.

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on grandfathering of biomass feed-in tariffs. [3538]

**Charles Hendry:** The consultation on biomass grandfathering policy closed on 28 May. DECC officials are currently analysing the responses.

Electricity generation from biomass (other than anaerobic digestion) is not eligible for feed-in tariffs. Biomass electricity generation at all scales is eligible for support through the renewables obligation.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Constituencies

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what definition of equal-sized constituencies he uses. [3237]

**Mr Harper:** The Government have announced that they will introduce legislation to provide for the creation of fewer and more equally-sized constituencies. Details of these provisions will be announced in due course and Parliament will have the opportunity to debate them.

## HEALTH

### Abortion: Young People

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* 18, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 16, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 14, *(f)* 13 and *(g)* 12 years old in each strategic health authority area who had had (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five, (vi) six, (vii) seven, (viii) eight, (ix) nine and (x) 10 or more previous abortions had an abortion in 2009. [2917]

**Anne Milton:** The information we can provide is shown in the following table. The Department has withheld data where there are totals of less than 10 (between 0 and nine) cases as we believe the disclosure of this information could breach an individual's confidentiality. This is in accordance with the Office for National Statistics guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

*Previous abortions by age under 19 and Strategic Health Authority of residence, 2009*

| *Strategic Health Authority* | *Number of previous abortions* | *Age under 18* | *18* | *Total under age 19* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | 0 | 1,445 | 752 | 2,197 |
| | 1+ | 104 | 133 | 237 |
| | Total | 1,549 | 885 | 2,434 |
| East Midlands | 0 | 1,189 | 661 | 1,850 |
| | 1+ | 60 | 91 | 151 |
| | Total | 1,249 | 752 | 2,001 |
| London | 0 | 2,460 | 1,401 | 3,861 |
| | 1+ | 393 | 419 | 812 |
| | Total | 2,853 | 1,820 | 4,673 |
| North East | 0 | 864 | 401 | 1,265 |
| | 1+ | 47 | 60 | 107 |
| | Total | 911 | 461 | 1,372 |
| North West | 0 | 2,527 | 1,341 | 3,868 |
| | 1+ | 194 | 239 | 433 |

*Previous abortions by age under 19 and Strategic Health Authority of residence, 2009*

| *Strategic Health Authority* | *Number of previous abortions* | *Age under 18* | *18* | *Total under age 19* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | 2,721 | 1,580 | 4,301 |
| South Central | 0 | 933 | 541 | 1,474 |
| | 1+ | 73 | 96 | 169 |
| | Total | 1,006 | 637 | 1,643 |
| South East | 0 | 1,166 | 625 | 1,791 |
| | 1+ | 109 | 110 | 219 |
| | Total | 1,275 | 735 | 2,010 |
| South West | 0 | 1,364 | 747 | 2,111 |
| | 1+ | 92 | 110 | 202 |
| | Total | 1,456 | 857 | 2,313 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 0 | 1,937 | 1,013 | 2,950 |
| | 1+ | 185 | 204 | 389 |
| | Total | 2,122 | 1,217 | 3,339 |
| West Midlands | 0 | 1,661 | 899 | 2,560 |
| | 1+ | 117 | 149 | 266 |
| | Total | 1,778 | 1,048 | 2,826 |
| Wales | 0 | 940 | 450 | 1,390 |
| | 1+ | 56 | 79 | 135 |
| | Total | 996 | 529 | 1,525 |
| England and Wales | 0 | 16,486 | 8,831 | 25,317 |
| | 1+ | 1,430 | 1,690 | 3,120 |
| | Total | 17,916 | 10,521 | 28,437 |

*Note:*

Ages and number of previous abortions are grouped where totals are less than 10 (between 0 and nine) or where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value from previously published data.

## Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adults were treated for mental health issues attributable to alcohol misuse *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in the East Midlands and *(c)* in Leicester in each of the last five years. [2561]

**Anne Milton:** The information is shown in the following table. It should be noted that the figures include admissions where mental and behavioural disorder due to alcohol is a secondary diagnosis, as well as those where it is the primary diagnosis. A secondary diagnosis will not in all cases be a cause of admission.

*Number of finished admissions of patients aged over 18 with a diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol*

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leicester | 967 | 1,348 | 1,619 | 1,552 | 1,506 |
| East Midlands | 7,715 | 8,523 | 9,741 | 10,159 | 11,570 |
| England | 106,255 | 120,139 | 123,907 | 131,146 | 144,141 |

*Notes:*

1. Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

2. Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

3. Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

4. Secondary diagnosis

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

5. Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

6. Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

7. Assignment of Episodes to Years

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

*Cause code:*

The ICD-10 code for mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol is F10.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adults have been treated by the NHS for high blood pressure attributable to alcohol misuse *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in the East Midlands and *(c)* in Leicester in each of the last five years. [2562]

**Anne Milton:** The information is shown in the following table. The proportion of hypertension caused by alcohol is an estimate. It should be noted that the figures include admissions where hypertension is a secondary diagnosis, as well as those where it is the primary diagnosis. A secondary diagnosis will not in all cases be a cause of admission.

*Number of finished admissions of patients aged over 18 with a diagnosis of hypertension attributable to alcohol*

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leicester | 1,120 | 1,379 | 1,664 | 1,811 | 1,790 |
| East Midlands | 17,778 | 19,847 | 22,250 | 25,750 | 29,288 |
| England | 191,063 | 228,471 | 262,016 | 290,633 | 332,602 |

*Notes:*

1. Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

*Finished admission episodes*

2. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*Primary diagnosis*

3. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

*Secondary diagnosis*

4. As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

*Data quality*

5. HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Assessing growth through time*

6. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

*Assignment of Episodes to Years*

7. Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

*Cause code*

8. The ICD-10 codes for hypertension are I10 to I15. From work carried out by the North West Public Health Observatory we are able to estimate what the proportion of hospital admissions are due to alcohol consumption, this is known as the alcohol attributable fraction (AAF). Hypertensive diseases have an AAF of 0.34 for males and 0.24 for females.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

## Autism: Children

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the provision of mental health services for children with autism; [2871]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of mental health services provision in improving the mental health for children with autism. [2873]

**Mr Burstow:** It is for local partners to agree how the commissioning process can best meet the complex needs of children with autism who have mental health problems. We are looking at what might need to be done to improve child and adolescent mental health services, including meeting the particular needs of this group.

## Continuing Care

**Miss Anne McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria apply in deciding whether a primary care trust pays for continuing health care; what assessment his Department has made of levels of regional variation in provision of continuing health care; how many patients are receiving continuing health care in *(a)* County Durham, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Cumbria, *(d)* Leeds and *(e)* London; and if he will make a statement. [2942]

**Mr Burstow:** Anyone assessed as having a certain level of care needs may receive national health service continuing health care. Eligibility is decided after an assessment has been made by a multidisciplinary team using the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-Funded Nursing Care.

The Department is working closely with the strategic health authority (SHA) continuing health care leads to investigate the variation in provision of continuing health care between regions, and between individual primary care trusts (PCTs). The SHAs have a managerial responsibility to investigate and manage this variation.

The number of people in receipt of continuing health care, for the period January to March 2010, is given in the following table:

| *Organisation* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| County Durham PCT | 556 |
| North Yorkshire and York PCT | 858 |
| Cumbria PCT | 390 |
| Leeds PCT | 845 |
| London SHA | 7,072 |

## Darent Valley Hospital

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated in the accident and emergency department at Darent Valley Hospital in each of the last five years. [3087]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table:

*Attendances at Type 1 Accident and Emergency (A&E) Departments, Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust (Darent Valley Hospital), 2005-06 to 2009-10*

| | *First attendances* | *Follow-up attendances* | *Total attendances* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 64,544 | 4,090 | 68,634 |
| 2006-07 | 61,102 | 3,353 | 64,455 |
| 2007-08 | 39,328 | 3,367 | 42,695 |
| 2008-09 | 41,649 | 3,123 | 44,772 |
| 2009-10 | 46,063 | 3,424 | 49,487 |

*Notes:*

1. The Department collects these data from NHS trusts rather than hospital sites.

2. Information is not collected on the number of patients treated at A&E departments. However, data on the number of attendances at A&E departments are available and published quarterly via the Department's QMAE dataset. This includes patients who attended A&E but who were not subsequently treated and counts each attendance by the same patient separately.

3. Definition of a Type 1 A&E department: A consultant-led 24-hour service with full resuscitation facilities and designated accommodation for the reception of accident and emergency patients.

*Source:*

Department of Health: The Quarterly Monitoring Accident and Emergency Data Set (QMAE)

## Dementia: Drugs

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations contributed to the national audit on the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs referred to in his Department's response to Professor Sube Banerjee's report on the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs to people with dementia of 12 November 2009. [3420]

**Mr Burstow:** The National Audit will be starting shortly, with the results anticipated to be available in October 2010.

### Departmental Reviews

**Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Government departments: reviews, what reviews his Department is undertaking; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* timescale of each is. [2586]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We will bring forward detailed information about reviews in due course.

### Dietary Supplements: EU Law

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the pay band is of each official assigned to handling negotiations at EU level on behalf of the Government in relation to the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the EU food supplements directive; [3152]

(2) what his objective is for negotiations at EU level on maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the EU food supplements directive; and what steps Ministers in his Department plan to take to ensure that those objectives are achieved. [3153]

**Anne Milton:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) represents the United Kingdom in negotiations at European Union level on the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in recommended daily doses of food supplements. The FSA has advised that the European Commission has indicated that discussions will continue at working group level later in 2010.

A team of officials of varying pay bands are responsible for this issue. Whilst FSA officials at Grade 7 and above in seniority will normally represent the UK in EU level discussions, the FSA deploys staff resources flexibly, using to the best effect the available skills and expertise, to ensure that the UK is best positioned to deliver its objectives.

The objective in the negotiations is to ensure that levels are set on the basis of science and safety in accordance with the requirements of the EU Food Supplements Directive 2002/46/EC.

### Disability: Social Services

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish a code of practice for the assessment and management of support packages for social care of severely disabled children and adults; [2029]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that care assessments and support packages for severely disabled children and adults are readily portable from one authority to another. [2030]

**Mr Burstow:** The current Guidance on Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care, England 2010 "Prioritising need in the context of Putting People First: A whole system approach to eligibility for social care", published in February 2010, states:

> "When a service user permanently moves from one council area to another (or has a clear intention to move to another council), the council whose area they move into should take account of the support that was previously received and the effect of any substantial changes on the service user when carrying out the assessment and making decisions about what level of support will be provided. If the new council decides to provide a significantly different support package, they should produce clear and written explanations for the service user."

A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

The Government have announced their intention to establish a commission on funding long-term care. The portability of adult social care across English local authorities could be an important issue that the commission needs to take into account when considering how to implement any future funding model for the social care system.

Transferability of care packages across local authority boundaries would run counter to the way in which local government is organised, in terms of local discretion and their budget responsibilities. When children move from one local authority to another, their new local authority should not necessarily start their assessment afresh, but should base the local assessment and service provision on information about the effectiveness of their package of support in their previous authority.

### General Practitioners: Equality

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that women and men general practitioners are equally represented on the proposed NHS GP Commissioning Board. [2902]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We will bring forward proposals for the NHS Commissioning Board in due course. The constitution of the board will be consistent with all the requirements of employment and equalities legislation.

### Mental Health Services

**Emma Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to healthcare providers on the priority to be given to use of cognitive behavioural therapy and other talking therapies for people with severe mental illness. [3098]

**Mr Burstow:** We have set out, in Our Programme for Government, a commitment to ensure greater access to talking therapies to reduce long-term costs for the national health service. This is a clear public health priority for us and we are currently working to identify how we will take forward this commitment.

Revised National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance on schizophrenia was published in March 2009. This outlines the best way to treat and manage adults with schizophrenia in primary and secondary care. The guidance recommends that treatments such as cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) should be offered to all people with schizophrenia.

Psychological therapies can be a key element of the treatment of people with severe and enduring mental health conditions, particularly when these conditions are experienced alongside depression and anxiety disorders. In these cases, the delivery of CBT and other NICE-compliant therapies is the recommended treatment. Services for these clients is largely provided by psychology departments in specialist mental health trusts. The implementation of Improving Access to Psychological Therapies services for people in community settings with mild to moderate conditions can reduce the number of referrals to specialist mental health trusts and enable them to focus on providing services to those with severe and enduring mental illness.

General practitioners or consultant psychiatrists can prescribe any medicine or treatment which they consider to be necessary for treating NHS patients, including NICE-approved treatments, provided that the local primary care trust or NHS trust agree to supply it on the NHS. Clinicians are responsible for deciding on the most appropriate form of treatment for their patients, and in doing so they are expected to take NICE guidance fully into account. The Department does not become involved in making clinical decisions.

### Mental Health Services: Children

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to require staff working in child and adolescent mental health services to receive basic training on autism. [3067]

**Mr Burstow:** Staff working in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) should have the necessary values, competencies, skills, and ongoing training to enable them to recognise and respond to the identified needs of children, including those with autism. We are looking at what might need to be done to ensure CAMHS offer proper support to those with autism spectrum disorders.

### NHS: Digital Technology

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that the principles of digital inclusion are taken into account in the delivery of mainstream health services. [3428]

**Mr Simon Burns:** No one should be excluded from mainstream health services because they do not have digital access. We are committed to enabling patients to have greater access to the information they need to play a more active part in decisions about their own care. Informed patients are more likely to have a good patient experience, to achieve a partnership with clinicians treating them and overall have a better outcome. We are looking at a range of ways of making that possible, which will include by digital means.

### NHS: Pay

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an assessment of the level of transparency of the mechanisms by which NHS trusts publish details of the remuneration of non-executive directors. [3438]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Levels of remuneration for non-executive directors have been determined centrally by the Government. On 10 March 2010, it was announced that there would be no increase to these rates for 2010-11.

Current rates are as follows:

*NHS trust chairs*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| NHS trust band 1 | 23,366 |
| NHS trust band 2 | 20,896 |
| NHS trust band 3 | 18,437 |
| NHS trust non-executive directors | 6,096 |

The Appointments Commission, an executive non-departmental public body manage appointments to NHS trusts on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and publish levels of remuneration on their website.

As a requirement of the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice, levels of remuneration are also publicised in appointment press releases.

### Surgical Dressings

**Esther McVey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to *(a)* general practitioners, *(b)* primary care trusts and *(c)* NHS trusts on the (i) re-use and (ii) disposal of cloth bandages. [2598]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department has issued Health Technical Memorandum 07-01 "Safe Management of Healthcare Waste" for all involved in the management of health care waste, including general practitioners, primary care trusts and national health service trusts. The guidance covers types of waste produced directly from health care activities, including bandages, and focuses on the management and risk assessment of medicinal and infectious waste. A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library.

All medical devices have to meet the requirements of the relevant Medical Device Regulations and, when used as intended, should be acceptably safe. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency guidance on using medical devices is to follow the instructions for use provided by the manufacturer which, for bandages, may be found on the labelling or the packaging. If medical devices are labelled as single-use only, they must not be re-used.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Access to Work Programme

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the Jobcentre Plus Access to Work programme. [2494]

**Maria Miller:** Access to Work provides financial help towards the extra costs faced by disabled people in work, where this goes beyond what would be reasonable for an employer to meet. Access to Work supported 32,120 disabled people during 2008-09. Official statistics for 2009-10 will be published on 27 July.

The Government are reviewing current welfare to work programmes, including Access to Work, to ensure that the support is effective and value for money. We are committed to ensuring disabled people are given the right support they need to get a job and remain in employment.

The Coalition Agreement announced plans to allow customers to confirm eligibility for Access to Work before applying for a job. We are drawing up plans for implementation and further details will be announced in due course.

### Carer's Allowance

**Mr Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been in receipt of carer's allowance in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since the allowance's inception. [2394]

**Maria Miller:** The available information is in the table.

*Carer's allowance cases in payment since August 2003*

| *Date* | *Jarrow parliamentary constituency* | *South Tyneside local authority* | *North-east Government office region* | *Great Britain* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| August 2003 | 790 | 1,400 | 24,640 | 400,090 |
| November 2003 | 810 | 1,430 | 24,840 | 406,150 |
| November 2004 | 840 | 1,480 | 25,630 | 431,580 |
| November 2005 | 850 | 1,520 | 25,810 | 443,990 |
| November 2006 | 900 | 1,600 | 26,470 | 458,820 |
| November 2007 | 900 | 1,620 | 26,980 | 472,300 |
| November 2008 | 920 | 1,710 | 28,270 | 496,030 |
| November 2009 | 970 | 1,800 | 29,800 | 526,480 |

*Notes*:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Invalid care allowance was renamed carer's allowance from April 2003.
3. The earliest data available are from August 2003. Prior to August 2003, figures are based on those with entitlement only. This means that caseload figures cannot be broken down by whether or not a case is in payment. As a result, carer's allowance data are restricted to August 2003 onwards.

*Source*:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he plans to amend the earnings limit which applies to carer's allowance; [3474]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of benefits available to carers; and if he will make a statement. [3472]

**Maria Miller:** The Government recognise that the UK's 6 million carers play an indispensable role in looking after friends or family members who need support. It also acknowledges the important role that both cash benefits and employment assistance play, especially in enabling many carers to combine care giving with paid employment.

The earnings limit for Carer's Allowance was raised in April from £95 to £100 and is net of certain taxes and expenses, including the costs of paying for care.

We have set out our commitment to simplify the benefit system in order to improve work incentives and encourage responsibility and fairness. We will consider carefully the needs of carers as we develop our thinking on welfare reform.

### Carer's Allowance: Redcar

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Redcar constituency *(a)* are in receipt of carer's allowance and *(b)* were in receipt of carer's allowance in each of the last five years. [3547]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is as follows:

*People in receipt of Carer's Allowance in Redcar constituency November 2004-09*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| November 2004 | 1,250 |
| August 2005 | 1,280 |
| November 2006 | 1,250 |
| November 2007 | 1,260 |
| November 2008 | 1,270 |
| November 2009 | 1,300 |

### Departmental Manpower

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers are employed by his Department; and at what Civil Service pay grade in each such case. [1265]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Prime Minister on 10 June, *Official Report*, columns 33-34W.

*(b)* Press office covers all of the Department's responsibilities including Jobcentre Plus and the Pensions, Disability and Carers Service, for the national and regional media across the English regions, Scotland and Wales.

The Department currently employs:

(i) National Press Office: one Acting Head of News and two Chief Press Officers all at Grade 7, two Senior Information Officers and seven Information Officers.

(ii) Regional Press Offices: one Head of Regional Media at Senior Information Officer pay grade, three Senior Information Officers and 14 Information Officers.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3123]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The Department for Work and Pensions Permanent Secretary is the only civil servant who has entitlement to use one of the Government Car Service's pool of four DWP vehicles. All of these vehicles have a dedicated driver.

*(b)* DWP special advisers do not have entitlement to use the Government Car Service pool of cars.

Within the UK, the DWP has only one departmental account for taxis, which covers London (within the M25—extending to London Airports). All DWP staff and special advisers are entitled to use this taxi account; however staff should always consider whether travelling by taxi is a necessity, having considered alternative travel methods, business needs, sustainability issues, increased public scrutiny of expenses and cost. Exceptional occasions where taxi travel is necessary may include:

> Where a taxi can be shared with other colleagues and the fare would be cheaper than public transport; and
>
> For journeys where there is no other suitable method of public transport.

### Departmental Official Residences

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any domestic properties in the gift of the Government have been allocated to the use of Ministers in his Department. [1795]

**Chris Grayling:** No domestic properties in the gift of the Government have been allocated for the use of Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 280-1W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [3244]

**Chris Grayling:** The salary ranges are as follows:

| *Grade* | £ |
|---|---|
| SCS Pay Band 1 | 61,700-117,800 |
| Grade 7 | 47,550-58,070 |
| SEO | 34,390-40,440 |
| HEO | 28,250-33,530 |
| EO | 23,940-28,130 |

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to analyse the distributional effect of the options for reductions in his Department's expenditure. [2859]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government set out in their document Spending Review Framework that they will

> "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions."

(2.4, page 7)

Further information will be available at the spending review.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's telephone helplines are 0800 numbers which incur call charges when called from a mobile phone. [3238]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department has a total of 116 0800 voice telephone lines. Of these, 51 are claim lines which are free for customers to call from the major UK mobile network operators as a result of an agreement reached between the Department and the major operators earlier this year.

The remaining 65 0800 voice telephone lines are in use for the National Benefit Fraud Hotline, Out of Hours services, Emergency Lines, Departmental survey, Jobcentre switchboards and Departmental pilot lines. In such cases, when a customer asks us, we offer to call them back. These 65 are being reviewed as part of the Department's number rationalisation programme which has, in the last year, seen the total volume of voice 0800 numbers reduce from 269 to 116.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* documents and *(b)* other information for which (i) his Department and (ii) its associated public bodies are responsible are published or provided in the UK in languages other than English; for what reason each such publication is required to be made available in a language or languages other than English; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the translation work so incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [1778]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not available as it would incur disproportionate cost.

### Electronic Government

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the contribution of Directgov to increasing the level of digital inclusion. [3431]

**Chris Grayling:** Digital inclusion is a key driver in the work Directgov undertakes with partners in the voluntary, public and private sector. Directgov's role as part of this agenda is to assist Departments in putting services online in an easy to use, accessible format, and ensuring that there is the widest possible access to those services.

Directgov is actively promoting digital inclusion initiatives aimed at encouraging the public online. Over the last year Directgov has promoted the following events:

Get Online Day
Silver Surfers Day
Pass IT On
Race Online
Online Basics

We believe that Directgov has made substantial progress, and we are committed to working with the Cabinet Office to increase digital inclusion.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Miss Anne McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of claimants of employment and support allowance; and if he will make a statement. [2946]

**Chris Grayling:** The most recent available information is that as at November 2009, there were 425,770 Employment and Support Allowance claimants in Great Britain and abroad.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10
2. Employment and Support Allowance replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. Figures are published on:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/esa.asp

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

### Employment and Support Allowance: South West

**Jacob Rees-Mogg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been assessed for employment and support allowance at Flowers Hill, Brislington, Bristol; and how many such people had their applications for that allowance rejected following work capability assessments. [2304]

**Chris Grayling:** Data on the outcomes of the work capability assessments for employment and support allowance claims in Flowers Hill, Brislington are not available.

For the Bristol city council area, which covers Brislington, the number of complete assessments for new employment and support allowance claims received between October 2008 and August 2009, is 2,900. Of these claims, 1,800 were found fit for work.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on the work capability assessment—the statistics were last updated in April 2010 and published in the report "Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment: Official Statistics: April 2010", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The information is also available on the internet at the following address:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

### Employment Schemes: Mentally Ill

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for helping people with mental health problems to find employment and cease being in receipt of benefits. [1719]

**Maria Miller:** In accordance with the Coalition Agreement, the Government have committed to introducing the Work Programme. The Work Programme will replace most existing employment programmes and will deliver comprehensive support to help longer-term benefit claimants into work, including people with mental health conditions.

The Department also provides a number of specialist employment programmes to help people with higher support needs to find and stay in supported and unsupported employment. Support is tailored to the needs of an individual customer, and includes a focus on the needs of people with mental health conditions as necessary.

From October 2010 we will begin reassessing customers receiving the old style incapacity benefits using the Work Capability Assessment. This will help people to access the right kind of support to help them back to work. It is a big undertaking and we are working on plans to make the change happen as smoothly as possible for all customers, including those with mental health conditions.

### Funeral Payments

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many applications have been made for funeral payments in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 2000; [2085]

(2) how much has been paid in funeral payments in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 2000. [2086]

**Steve Webb:** Information regarding funeral payments for Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The available information is in the tables.

*Number of funeral payment claims received in Great Britain by country and financial year*

| | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 51.130 | 4,380 | 8,970 |
| 2001-02 | 51,850 | 4,360 | 9,440 |
| 2002-03 | 55,260 | 4,890 | 10,190 |
| 2003-04 | 57,600 | 5,070 | 10,330 |
| 2004-05 | 54.620 | 4,760 | 9,920 |
| 2005-06 | 53,940 | 4,400 | 9,330 |
| 2006-07 | 54.180 | 4,070 | 8.820 |
| 2007-08 | 52,430 | 3,850 | 8,730 |
| 2008-09 | 55,840 | 4,090 | 8,640 |
| 2009-10 | 54,960 | 4,200 | 8,440 |

*Funeral payment gross expenditure in Great Britain by country and financial year*

| | | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* |
| 2000-01 | 28.0 | 2.1 | 5.6 |
| 2001-02 | 30.0 | 2.3 | 6.0 |
| 2002-03 | 32.4 | 2.6 | 6.6 |
| 2003-04 | 37.0 | 2.9 | 7.2 |
| 2004-05 | 36.9 | 2.3 | 7.1 |
| 2005-06 | 36.6 | 1.9 | 6.8 |
| 2006-07 | 37.1 | 2.1 | 6.8 |
| 2007-08 | 37.0 | 2.2 | 6.8 |
| 2008-09 | 39.5 | 2.2 | 6.7 |
| 2009-10 | 38.4 | 2.2 | 6.5 |

*Notes:*

1. Gross expenditure includes awards made after reconsideration or appeal.
2. The number of claims received has been rounded to the nearest 10 and gross expenditure to the nearest £0.1 million.

*Source:*

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average size of funeral payments made to applicants in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland has been since 2005. [2091]

**Steve Webb:** Information regarding funeral payments for Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The available information is in the table.

*Funeral payment average award in Great Britain by country and financial year*

| | | | *£* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* |
| 2005-06 | 1,097 | 883 | 1,066 |
| 2006-07 | 1.136 | 881 | 1.106 |
| 2007-08 | 1.183 | 961 | 1.130 |
| 2008-09 | 1,217 | 974 | 1,154 |
| 2009-10 | 1.230 | 1,003 | 1.164 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures include awards made after reconsideration or appeal.
2. The average award has been rounded to the nearest £1.

*Source:*

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

### Future Jobs Fund

**Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of jobs which had been created under the Future Jobs Fund up to 14 June 2010. [3159]

**Chris Grayling:** The latest official statistics Future Jobs Fund jobs cover the period up to January 2010. The figures show that 8,660 people had started Future Jobs Fund jobs. Further statistics will be released later this summer.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people in Warrington are in employment financed through the Future Jobs Fund. [3280]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not available.

### Jobcentre Plus: Digital Technology

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent assessment of the extent to which the principles of digital inclusion are taken into account by Jobcentre Plus in the delivery of its services. [3430]

**Chris Grayling:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked the chief executive to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking (i) what steps his Department is taking to ensure and (ii) whether he has made a recent assessment of the extent to which, the principles of digital inclusion are taken into account in the provision of services by Jobcentre Plus. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus recognises the importance of digital inclusion for our customers, especially those who are most disadvantaged and face the greatest barriers to work.

Many Jobcentre Plus services are available through digital channels, including searching for job vacancies, the Benefit Adviser Service on Directgov and the option of making a claim online for contributions-based Jobseeker's Allowance. We aim to help customers develop the skills and confidence to use these services together with the growing number of on-line services provided elsewhere in the private, voluntary and public sectors.

We are looking at a range of ways to address digital exclusion. These include the appointment of digital inclusion champions in Jobcentres and better signposting to help customers access support from our partners, such as the advice and provision available through UK Online in England and equivalents in Wales and Scotland. We see this work as important in tackling barriers to internet access which, with more employers using online recruitment to fill vacancies, is a real barrier to customers finding work.

Tackling digital exclusion is essential to addressing wider social mobility and ensuring that all our customers can benefit from the improvements that digital technologies can provide in helping them move from welfare to work.

### Oil: Safety

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the number of safety incidents there have been on oil rigs in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [3167]

**Chris Grayling:** Table 1 gives the accident statistics reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulation 1995 (RIDDOR) for the UK offshore industry as a whole. It will therefore include not only drilling rigs but also installations ranging from large oil and gas production platforms, floating production installations, drilling rigs and unattended gas platforms.

*Table 1*

| *Injuries* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fatalities | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Major injuries | 53 | 47 | 64 | 48 | 48 | 50 | 39 | 44 | 30 | 423 |
| Over three day injuries | 177 | 187 | 120 | 103 | 111 | 125 | 164 | 148 | 140 | 1,275 |
| Total injuries | 233 | 237 | 184 | 154 | 159 | 177 | 205 | 192 | 170 | 1,711 |
| Dangerous occurrences | 764 | 661 | 615 | 530 | 538 | 491 | 485 | 509 | 477 | 5,110 |

RIDDOR also requires the reporting of certain dangerous occurrences, and Table 2 gives the statistics for those categories of offshore dangerous occurrences which are almost inevitably drilling rig related.

*Table 2*

| | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unplanned close BOP (Kicks) | 30 | 32 | 45 | 36 | 36 | 32 | 36 | 28 | 27 | 302 |
| Shallow Gas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Unplanned Flow | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| Total | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 619 |

Note:

Figures do not distinguish between minor and major incidents

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department are responsible for monitoring the safety of oil rigs in UK waters. [3168]

**Maria Miller:** The Offshore Division of the Health and Safety Executive has 124 specialist inspectors responsible for health and safety regulation of the UK's offshore oil and gas industry. (Figures as at 1 April 2010)

## Poverty: Children

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will make a statement under section 9 of the Child Poverty Act 2009 on how the Government will meet the targets in that Act to end child poverty. [2171]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Poverty Act gained Royal Assent on 25 March this year. Section 9(1) requires Government within 12 months of that date to lay before Parliament the first UK child poverty strategy. Section 9(2) stipulates that the strategy set out the measures that we propose to take to comply with the duty under section 2 to meet four statutory targets and ensure as far as possible that children in the United Kingdom do not experience socio-economic disadvantage. We are setting work in hand to publish a robust strategy within that timescale.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Government plan to adhere to the targets for abolishing child poverty contained in the Child Poverty Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [2258]

**Maria Miller:** Page 19 of "The Coalition: our programme for government" makes clear our intention to maintain the goal of ending child poverty in the UK by 2020. The terms of reference for the inquiry which we have asked Frank Field MP to lead includes looking at the measurement of poverty, particularly non-financial aspects. We will want to take account of that inquiry and the work of the Cabinet Committee for Social Justice in preparing the UK strategy for eradicating child poverty that the Child Poverty Act requires us to publish by March next year.

## Social Security Benefits

**Mr Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people of working age *(a)* do not have a full-time job and *(b)* are in receipt of benefits. [2006]

**Chris Grayling:** The number of people of working age in the United Kingdom who did not have a full-time job in the three months ending March 2010 is estimated at 17.488 million, including people who are in part-time employment, unemployed or economically inactive.

*Notes:*

1. Working age population is defined as men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

2. Estimates refer to the three-month period ending March 2010, and are not seasonally adjusted.

3. Figure rounded to the nearest thousand.

*Source:*

ONS Labour Force Survey

The available information on the number of working age people receiving social security benefits is in the tables.

*Working age benefits client group in Great Britain and abroad: November 2009*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| All working age benefit claimants | 5,857,130 |

*Notes:*

1. Figure rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Working age benefits include: Jobseeker's allowance; incapacity benefit; employment and support allowance; income support; disability living allowance (DLA); attendance allowance (AA); carers allowance (CA); severe disability allowance; and widow's benefit.
3. AA, CA, and DLA claimants include those with entitlement, but where payment is currently suspended (for example, because of an extended stay in hospital or an overlapping benefit).
4. Working age is defined as men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

*Number of working age housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients in Great Britain as at November 2009*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Housing benefit | 3,036,550 |
| Council tax benefit | 3,004,780 |

*Notes:*

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Working age is defined as claimants in receipt of the following benefits, as recorded on the local authority's computer system: Income support, jobseeker's allowance (income-based) or employment and support allowance (income-based). Claimants not receiving one of these benefits are counted as working age if they are aged under 60.
4. There is an overlap in the figures as most people will receive both housing benefit and council tax benefit.
5. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.
6. Figures published at

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd

## Social Security Benefits: Disability

**Mr Bacon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent under the Independent Living Fund in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 to date. [2551]

**Maria Miller** *[holding answer 15 June 2010]*: The Independent Living Fund had expenditure of £340 million for 2009-10 and £58.8 million for the first two months of 2010-11. Figures are for Great Britain.

## Transocean

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with Transocean on the safety record of its oil rigs. [3165]

**Maria Miller:** Inspectors from Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) Offshore Division hold annual health and safety reviews with every offshore installation duty holder. The last annual review for Transocean was on

23 March 2009, and topics raised by HSE included industry performance, HSE priorities, Transocean specific performance, reported incidents, HSE investigation results, and Transocean specific intervention plans for the coming year. HSE plans to hold the next Annual Review with the company in the autumn 2010.

The most recent meeting with Transocean senior management was 17 June 2010, to discuss the response to a recent extensive human factors intervention undertaken by HSE.

The most recent offshore inspection was on the drilling rig Galaxy II from 9-11 June 2010. The inspection focussed specifically on blow out preventer (BOP) control systems and well control.

### Work Capability Assessment

**Mr Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the independent report on the operation of the work capability assessment made under the Welfare Reform Act 2007 will be published; and if he will make a statement. [3467]

**Chris Grayling:** We are in the process of commissioning an independent review of the operation of the work capability assessment, and expect it to report before the end of the year.

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on implementation of the recommendations of the March 2009 review of work capability assessment. [3800]

**Chris Grayling:** We are currently considering the recommendations of the Department-led review of the work capability assessment.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Equality: Local Government

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the effects on sex encounter establishments of the gender equality duty placed on local authorities. [2827]

**Lynne Featherstone** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]*: No such assessment has been made.

It is for each local authority to identify how to meet its obligations under the Gender Equality Duty and to report on the actions the authority has taken towards the achievement of those objectives.

### Rape: Rights of Accused

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on extending anonymity to defendants in rape cases; and when those discussions took place. [2740]

**Lynne Featherstone:** I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues, including the Secretary of State for Justice, on a range of issues, and will continue to do so to develop the policies and priorities included in the coalition programme for Government.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take account of the published anti-Semitic views of any individuals seeking to enter the UK when deciding whether to grant entry to such individuals; what representations she has received on that matter since her appointment; and if she will make a statement. [2912]

**Damian Green:** We take seriously any form of incitement to religious or racial hatred as this threatens social cohesion and could provoke inter-community violence or tension. We will seek to prevent propagators of hate crime from entering the country.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of her Department's seminar on race hate, anti-Semitism and the internet. [3009]

**James Brokenshire:** While an assessment of the ministerial seminar has not been undertaken, we will analyse previous efforts at tackling hate crime on the internet in considering future policy in this area.

### Drugs: Misuse

**Richard Harrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made for benchmarking purposes of the levels of problem drug use in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other EU member states. [2882]

**James Brokenshire:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The Home Office commissioned a three year series (covering the years 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07) of national and regional estimates of the prevalence of Problem Drug Use (defined as use of opiates and/or crack cocaine). The most recent of those studies (2006-07) found there were an estimated 328,767 problem drug users in England (with a range of 322,128 to 340,196), corresponding to an estimated rate of 9.76 per 1,000 population.

*Source:*

'National and regional estimates of the prevalence of opiate use and/or crack cocaine use 2006-07: a summary of key findings' Table 1, Research Report 9. This report is available on the Home Office RDS website:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/horr09.pdf

Estimates for 2008-09 are currently being produced by the National Treatment Agency, in conjunction with the Home Office and the Department of Health.

*(b)* The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) publishes, in its online Statistical Bulletin, estimates of the number and rates of Problem Drug Users in European countries. The most recent rates published by EMCDDA in 2009 range from 2.7 to 9.9 per 1,000 population aged 15 to 64, the highest rate being that for the UK, although the different ways the estimates are calculated in different countries mean they cannot be directly compared. Further information can be found in the EMCDDA Statistical Bulletin at:

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/stats09/pdutab1a

**Mr Spencer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the level of problem drug use in the UK relative to that level in other EU countries. [3109]

**James Brokenshire:** The Home Office commissioned a three year series (covering the years 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07) of national and regional estimates of the prevalence of Problem Drug Use (defined as use of opiates and/or crack cocaine) in England. The most recent of those studies (2006-07) found there were an estimated 328,767 problem drug users in England (with a range of 322,128-340,196), corresponding to an estimated rate of 9.76 per thousand population.

*Source:*

'National and regional estimates of the prevalence of opiate use and/or crack cocaine use 2006-07: a summary of key findings' Table 1, Research Report 9. This report is available on the Home Office RDS website:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/horr09.pdf

Estimates for 2008-09 for England are currently being produced by the National Treatment Agency, in conjunction with the Home Office and the Department of Health.

Each of the other UK administrations (Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) produce their own estimates.

Estimates for problem drug use across the EU are published by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), in its online Statistical Bulletin. The most recent rates published by EMCDDA in 2009 range from 2.7 to 9.9 per thousand population aged 15-64, the highest rate being that for the UK, although the different ways the estimates are calculated in different countries mean they cannot be directly compared.

Further information can be found in the EMCDDA Statistical Bulletin at:

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/stats09/pdutab1a

## Harlow: Crime Statistics

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of cases of *(a)* violent crime and *(b)* burglary in each ward of Harlow constituency since 1997. [3099]

**James Brokenshire:** The available information is for offences recorded by the police and is given in the tables. Data have been provided for violence against the person and burglary in a dwelling offences.

Statistics for the individual wards of Harlow are not available centrally and data for Community Safety Partnership (CSP) of Harlow have been provided. Data at this level are available from 1999-2000 to 2008-09.

The information has been provided in two tables to make clear that figures before and after the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002-03 are not directly comparable.

*Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in the Harlow Community Safety Partnership area 1999-2000 to 2001-02*[1]

| | | | Number of offences, recorded crime |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* |
| Violence against the person | 737 | 879 | 1,028 |
| Burglary in a dwelling | 301 | 248 | 369 |

[1] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

*Table 2: Offences recorded by the police in the Harlow Community Safety Partnership area 2002-03 to 2008-09*[1]

| | | | | | | | Number of offences, recorded crime |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
| Violence against the person | 1,576 | 2,149 | 2,246 | 2,187 | 1,990 | 1,949 | 1,800 |
| Burglary in a dwelling | 403 | 540 | 380 | 240 | 298 | 327 | 468 |

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

## Identity Cards

**Robert Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in Stoke-on-Trent have purchased a voluntary identity card. [2657]

**Damian Green:** The Identity and Passport Service is not able to provide information relating to particular constituencies or regions for identity card applications. However, as of 11 June 2010 there have been fewer than 15,000 identity cards issued in the United Kingdom.

**Richard Harrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the cost of the identity cards scheme. [2881]

**Damian Green:** Between 2003 and March 2006, the Home Office spent a total of £41 million developing the policy, legislation and business case for the introduction of identity cards.

Responsibility for identity cards was transferred to the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) on its establishment in April 2006. Between then and March 2010, IPS spent a total of £251 million on projects to establish identity cards, second biometric passports and other related programmes.

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to her contribution to the debate on second reading of the Identity Documents Bill of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 348, what assistance her Department is giving to staff in Durham who have been released early as a result of the Government's policy to end the voluntary identity cards scheme. [2935]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* The restructuring of IPS resulted in 60 temporary staff being released three months earlier than expected.

The people affected generally commenced their temporary employment with IPS between January and March 2010.

All those affected have received five weeks paid notice; employment references, the offer of time off for job interviews; help/support of line managers, PCS trade union representatives and use of the IPS Employee Assistance Programme.

### Immigration: Legacy Programme

**Mr Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has in respect of the Legacy Programme for the backlog of immigration and asylum cases introduced by the previous Government; how many cases under the programme *(a)* have been dealt with, *(b)* have resulted in the grant of leave to remain and *(c)* remain to be dealt with; and if she will make a statement. [2776]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* The chief executive of the UK Border Agency, Lin Homer last updated the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) regarding the progress made in resolving the legacy cases in her letter of February 2010. She informed the committee that the Case Resolution Directorate had concluded 235,000 cases up to the end of December 2009. She will provide a further progress update on the conclusion of these cases in her next correspondence to the HASC.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Aviation: Trade Competitiveness

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in *(a)* the Scottish Executive, *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(c)* the Northern Ireland Executive on the effect of the Government's fiscal policies on the competitiveness of businesses in the aviation sector. [3562]

**Mr Prisk:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not had any discussions with Ministers in the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government or the Northern Ireland Executive on this subject, as this is a matter for the Department for Transport. However, he is keeping abreast of issues in this and other industrial sectors.

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with representatives of the aviation industry on the effect of the Government's fiscal policies on *(a)* their levels of business and *(b)* their competitiveness; and if he will make a statement. [3564]

**Mr Prisk:** The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not had any discussions with representatives of the aviation industry on this subject, as this is a matter for the Department for Transport. However, he is keeping abreast of issues in this and other industrial sectors.

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* Secretary of State for Transport on the effect of the Government's fiscal policies on the competitiveness of the aviation industry, with particular reference to freight carriers; and if he will make a statement. [3565]

**Mr Prisk:** The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not had any meetings with the Chancellor of the Exchequer or the Secretary of State for Transport on this subject, as this is a matter for the Department for Transport. However, he is keeping abreast of issues in this and other industrial sectors.

### Business: Government Assistance

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which of his Department's programmes to assist industry are under review. [2354]

**Mr Prisk:** In common with other Government Departments, this Department, in conjunction with the Treasury, has undertaken a review of all significant expenditure approvals since 1 January 2010, which included several Industry Support projects. The full list of these projects is as follows:

Outokompu
Sheffield Forgemasters
Offshore wind grants
Growth Capital Fund
ECF University Spin Outs
General Motors
Ford
Nissan
Post Office Ltd
Narec Offshore Wind Blade Test Site
Narec Offshore Wind Turbine Test Sites
Offshore Wind Demonstration & Deployment
Support for Mitsubishi and partners to develop an offshore wind turbine
Green Bus Competition II
Carbon Trust SME Loan Scheme
Bristol & Bath Science Park
London Business Link
International Space Innovation Centre.

The results of these reviews and those of non-Business Support projects were announced to the House by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 17 June.

### Business: Regulation

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future regulation of business and investment finance. [2738]

**Mr Prisk:** In order to avoid a repeat of the financial crisis, we committed in the coalition agreement to reform the regulatory system. The Chancellor has outlined Government proposals to abolish the tripartite regime. The Financial Services Authority will cease to exist in its current form.

We will create a new prudential regulator, which will operate as a subsidiary of the Bank of England. It will carry out the prudential regulation of financial firms, including banks, investment banks, building societies and insurance companies.

We will also establish a powerful new Consumer Protection and Markets Authority, responsible for ensuring the good conduct of business in the UK's retail and wholesale financial services, in order to preserve our reputation for transparency and efficiency as well as our position as one of the world's leading global financial centres.

A single agency will be created to take on the work of tackling serious economic crime that is currently dispersed across a number of Government Departments and agencies.

Before we set up these new bodies in their permanent form, we will conduct a full and comprehensive consultation process and will publish a detailed policy document for public consultation before the summer recess.

During the period of transition to the new regime, the Government will also be guided by the following four principles:

minimising uncertainty and transitional costs for firms;

maintaining high quality, focused regulation during the transition;

balancing swift implementation with proper scrutiny and consultation; and

providing as much clarity and certainty as possible for FSA, bank and other staff affected during transition.

The process will be handled carefully; we will consult widely and get it right.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 232W on business: regulations, which regulations he has identified as relevant. [2750]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has the responsibility to operate the one-in-one-out rule across the regulatory areas for which it is responsible, including employment law.

This is consistent with the Coalition's Programme for Government commitment to reviewing employment and workplace laws, for employers and employees, to ensure they maximise flexibility for both parties while protecting fairness and providing the competitive environment required for enterprise to thrive.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to allow the public to challenge primary legislation as part of his proposals to allow the public to challenge regulations in force. [2755]

**Mr Prisk:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 June *Official Report*, column 233w. As part of developing innovative and practical ways to facilitate public challenge of the worst regulations, we are also considering the scope of this work. I will make a statement to the House with more detail in due course.

### Companies House: Nantgarw

**Owen Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will discuss with *(a)* the hon. Member for Pontypridd and *(b)* Companies House employees based at Nantgarw the proposed closure of Companies House's Nantgarw office; and if he will make a statement; [2766]

(2) whether he has discussed with the Chief Executive of Companies House the proposed closure of Companies House's Nantgarw office. [2767]

**Mr Davey:** This is an operational matter for the chief executive of Companies House. I am aware that staff at Companies House are being kept fully informed on this issue.

I understand the hon. Member for Pontypridd met the chief executive to discuss the proposed closure on 17 June 2010.

### Credit Cards: Regulation

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department has issued on each change made to regulations and controls on the issue of credit cards in the last three years. [2812]

**Mr Davey:** I understand that, although BIS has not published any new guidance on consumer credit rules which would impact on credit cards over the last three years, the Office of Fair Trading published updated guidance on unfair relationships in May 2008, on post-contractual information requirements in July 2008 and on irresponsible lending in March this year. The guidance covers provisions introduced by the 2006 Consumer Credit Act. BIS is currently consulting on draft guidance on new provisions implementing the Consumer Credit Directive which were made in March this year and come into force next February.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of proposed reductions in numbers of non-frontline staff in his Department and its agencies. [482]

**Mr Davey:** Plans for reductions in numbers of non-frontline staff at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are not sufficiently developed at this stage to enable us to estimate the cost.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 3 June 2010:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 26 May 2010, UIN 482 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House is a Trading Fund and Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Companies House has not budgeted for any redundancy/severance costs, however, as a Trading Fund any costs would be met by fees from our customers and would represent no cost to the public purse.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 1 June 2010:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 26 May to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking about estimates of the annual cost of redundancy payments for staff employed by the Department and its Agencies.

The cost to the Agency of any redundancy or other exit payments this year will be disclosed in its Annual Report and Accounts of 2010/11. As matters stand, however, we do not envisage having to make such payments during the current year.

*Letter from John Alty dated 2 June 2010:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 26 May 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) is a Trading Fund and Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The IPO has not budgeted for any redundancy/severance costs however as a Trading Fund any costs would be met by fees from users and would represent no cost to the public purse.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 3 June 2010:*

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of proposed reductions in numbers of non-frontline staff in his Department and its agencies.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills set out its plan for 2010/11 in its Corporate Plan. This included a planned reduction in non-frontline staff working in corporate services functions during 2010-11 of 12.6 (FTE). With the recent announcements of plans to cut £6¼ billion of wasteful spending across the public sector The Insolvency Service is reviewing its Corporate plan for 2010-11 which may lead to further changes in planned numbers of non-frontline staff.

A large proportion (73%) of the Insolvency Service's functions are funded by fee income and the impact of any reductions will therefore only apply to the 27% funded from the public purse.

*Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 21 June 2010:*

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 26 May (UIN 482), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning the cost of proposed reductions in non-frontline staff in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on 1 April 2010. As a new agency, we are currently looking at the implications of the recent announcements and the impact on the future shape of the organisation.

The cost to the agency of any reduction in numbers of non-frontline staff this financial year will be disclosed in the accounts for 2010/11.

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers are employed by his Department at each Civil Service pay grade. [1263]

**Mr Davey:** I refer the hon. Member to the list of special adviser appointments published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 32-34W.

BIS currently has 30 Press Officers employed as civil servants at these pay grades:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Senior Civil Service (SCS) | 1 |
| Grade 6 | 1 |
| Grade 7 | 3 |
| Senior Executive Officers (SEO)/ Senior Information Officer (SIO) | 9 |
| Higher Executive Officers (HEO)/ Information Officers (IO) | 14 |
| Agency staff | 2 |

This excludes one Press Officer working in BIS but employed by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). In addition there are three Grade 7 chief press officers on maternity leave.

## Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons the Minister of State for Universities has appointed a special adviser. [2948]

**Mr Willetts:** To add a political dimension to the advice I receive.

## EU Grants and Loans

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which public bodies will provide the secretariat for EU Convergence Regional Programmes when regional development agencies are wound up. [3524]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government indicated in the coalition agreement that RDAs would be replaced by local enterprise partnerships comprising business and local authorities. Discussions are still under way on the future delivery of the EU programmes in the English regions.

## EU Grants and Loans: South West

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the delivery of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Convergence Programme of the ending of regional development agencies. [3525]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government have indicated that the delivery of economic development in all the regions of England will change as it considers a more appropriate delivery of economic development is by partnerships between local authorities and business.

The Government will work with the programme partners to ensure that changes to management arrangements have no detrimental effect on the benefits that the Convergence programme will bring to the economy of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what factors he took into account in deciding to *(a)* end the South West Regional Development Agency and *(b)* change the secretariat for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly EU Convergence Programme. [3528]

**Mr Prisk:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* In "The Coalition: our programme for government" we made clear that we intended to replace regional development agencies, including South West RDA, with local enterprise partnerships. This is because it is not clear that the current RDAs represent the best structure to promote economic development. In particular, some regions do not generally reflect economic areas, while RDAs are not locally accountable and have too wide a range of responsibilities.

*(b)* No decision has yet been made to change the secretariat for the Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Convergence programme.

## Export Control Organisation

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place to ensure that UK companies do not sell arms to countries where human rights abuses have been identified by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and if he will make a statement. [3048]

**Mr Prisk:** An export licence is required to export arms and other military equipment from the United Kingdom. All export licence applications are rigorously assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria taking account of all prevailing circumstances at the time of the application. A licence will not be issued where to do so would be inconsistent with the Criteria or other relevant announced commitments. In particular Criterion Two concerns the 'respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country of final destination', and states that the Government will not issue an export licence if there is a clear risk that the proposed export might be used for internal repression.

More information about the Criteria, including a link to the full text, is available on the export control pages on the Business Link website at:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/exportcontrol

under 'Assessment of Export Licence Applications—Criteria and Policy.'

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has estimated the effects on *(a)* UK businesses and *(b)* the volume of UK exports arising from the Export Control Organisation not processing all standard individual export licences within its 20 working days' target. [3101]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government's published target is to process 70% of standard individual export licences in 20 days. In 2009, this target was exceeded with an outturn of 73%. Some export licences take longer to process because they involve the export of sensitive goods to sensitive destinations, which may require particularly close scrutiny or consultation with other Governments. No estimate has been made of the implications for business of the fact that some export licences cannot be processed within 20 days.

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that applicants for a standard individual export licence receive *(a)* prompt notification of the receipt of their application and *(b)* an estimated deadline for deciding on the application; what mechanism is used to ensure applications are processed safely and efficiently; and if he will make a statement. [3102]

**Mr Prisk:** All applications for standard export licences are submitted via the Government's fully electronic web based processing system, known as SPIRE. SPIRE replaced the previous system of paper licences and provides a complete end-to-end e-business service. The system connects all parties involved in export licensing and is hosted on the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) ensuring that all communications over the system are secure. Applicants are notified of receipt of their application immediately after submission through an automatic acknowledgement sent to them over SPIRE.

The Government publish licence processing target times which, for standard individual export licences, is to process 70% of these within 20 working days. Applicants are advised that this target applies as soon as full documentation has been provided in support of an application and that it does not include time taken to go back to them for further information. Furthermore, the Government's performance against these targets for each destination country is published in the annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls.

## Exports: Saudi Arabia

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support British businesses which export goods to Saudi Arabia. [3463]

**Mr Prisk:** UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) supports companies exporting to Saudi Arabia through trade and investment teams based in Saudi Arabia and the UK. In addition to a 25-strong team based in Riyadh, Jeddah and Al Khobar, UKTI also employs a business specialist in the UK focused on identifying supply chain opportunities in Saudi Arabia arising from the Saudi Government's Fiscal Stimulus packages.

UKTI provides a broad range of support for British companies wishing to do business in Saudi Arabia—from conferences and trade missions to support for trade fairs and exhibitions. In December 2009, the then Minister for Trade, Lord Davies, led a high-level mission of over 40 UK companies to Jeddah and Riyadh. In February this year, UKTI organised "Partner Middle East", a three-day road show that exposed over 450 companies in London, the West Midlands and Manchester to business opportunities in Saudi Arabia (and elsewhere in the Middle East). UKTI is rolling out a programme of follow-up activities over the course of 2010-11.

UKTI funds and provides secretariat support for the Saudi-British Joint Business Council. The council meets twice a year to identify new business opportunities and also focuses on ways to tackle barriers to trade and to improve the environment for business. The Business Council has had a particular focus on the energy sector, as well as health care, education and skills and construction/transport, bringing together companies from both the UK and Saudi Arabia to explore the opportunities for new business partnerships in these key areas. To build new business in the financial services sector, UKTI, working closely with the Business Council and private sector partners, has overseen the creation of a UK-Saudi Arabia Financial Services Task Force, which is focused on a number of areas including public-private partnerships, investment banking law and regulation.

## Google: Data Protection

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Government plans to investigate Google's data-gathering practices in relation to the recording of information from Wi-Fi networks. [2629]

**Mr Vaizey:** Under the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) rather than Government, has responsibility for investigating potential data protection breaches of this nature. The ICO has secured a commitment from Google to destroy the erroneously collected data and are currently examining what other action would be appropriate.

### Higher Education and Student Finance Independent Review

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the Browne Review of higher education funding and student finance to report its findings. [2955]

**Mr Willetts:** The terms of reference for the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance state that it will report by the autumn.

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the report on Lord Browne's review of higher education finance to be published. [3311]

**Mr Willetts:** The terms of reference for the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance state that it will report by the autumn.

### Higher Education: Hartlepool

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in Hartlepool constituency commenced a higher education course in each year since 1990. [3449]

**Mr Willetts:** The numbers of entrants from Hartlepool constituency to UK higher education institutions are shown in the table. Figures are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record and are provided for the academic years 1995-96 to 2008-09.

HESA have published UK higher education statistics since the 1994-95 academic year. In 1994-95 student postcode information, on which constituency data are based, was not collected, so information at constituency level is only available from 1995-96. Postcode information has been collected in each year thereafter and, therefore, entrant numbers can be provided at constituency level. Comparable data for earlier years are not available.

Figures for the 2009-10 academic year will be available from HESA in January 2011.

*Entrants[1] from Hartlepool constituency[2] UK higher education institutions[3]: Academic years 1995-96 to 2008-09*

| *Academic year* | *Entrants* |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 690 |
| 1996-97 | 605 |
| 1997-98 | 675 |
| 1998-99 | 760 |
| 1999-2000 | 755 |
| 2000-01 | 905 |
| 2001-02 | 950 |
| 2002-03 | 1,120 |
| 2003-04 | 1,100 |
| 2004-05 | 1,100 |
| 2005-06 | 1,120 |
| 2006-07 | 1,185 |
| 2007-08 | 980 |
| 2008-09 | 1,390 |

[1] Covers all-aged undergraduate and postgraduate entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[3] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:

Figures are on a HESA snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

### Iron and Steel

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to support the steel manufacturing sector. [3161]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department will work closely with the steel industry to minimise unnecessary burdens by involving the sector in discussions on regulatory, policy and other issues that impact on them such as the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, energy costs and supply, climate change and environmental protection. Our aim is to avoid unintended consequences and harness the sector's many creative ideas for lighter touch approaches.

The steel industry has opportunities to participate in collaborative R&D projects funded by the Technology Strategy Board and the EU Research Fund for Coal and Steel. Financial support for the steel industry needs to meet the requirements in the EC State Aid rules which permit support for research and development, environmental protection and training within specified limits.

In respect of the mothballed Teesside Cast Products site in my hon. Friend's constituency, we hope a new partner can be found for this plant, however decisions on any offer to purchase the Teesside plant are a commercial matter for Corus.

### National Union of Students

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers and officials in his Department have (i) met, (ii) spoken on the telephone and (iii) corresponded with representatives of the National Union of Students since their appointment. [2951]

**Mr Willetts:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met Aaron Porter on 1 June, when they were both visiting the Student Loans Company in Glasgow.

I spoke with the former NUS President Wes Streeting last on 24 May, and I met with the new NUS President Aaron Porter on 21 June, for what I hope will be the first of many such meetings.

In addition, there are a number of regular contacts between BIS officials and the NUS as part of normal business.

### Nissan: Finance

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the oral answer from the Prime Minister of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 327-28, how much his Department has spent in reviewing its proposed loan to Nissan. [3215]

**Mr Prisk:** The grant for business investment to Nissan was one of many projects reviewed, and therefore it is not possible to identify the costs which relate solely to the Nissan case.

### Northwest Regional Development Agency

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people are employed in the Warrington office of the North West Regional Development Agency. [3282]

**Mr Prisk:** The total number of staff employed at the Warrington office of the Northwest Regional Development Agency is 409.

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the North West Development Agency in relation to job creation and retention and economic development in *(a)* the North West region and *(b)* Liverpool. [3497]

**Mr Prisk:** An Independent Performance Assessment conducted by the National Audit Office in 2006-07 assessed the North West Development Agency as performing strongly. The NAO, on behalf of my Department, is currently undertaking an Independent Supplementary Review of regional development agencies and is due to report shortly.

### Northwest Regional Development Agency: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to which projects in *(a)* Stockport Metropolitan Borough area and *(b)* Tameside Metropolitan Borough area the North West Regional Development Agency is considering allocating funding in the financial year 2010-11. [3176]

**Mr Prisk:** The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) is not currently considering any new projects for investment in the Stockport and Tameside metropolitan borough areas where spending would occur in the current (2010/11) financial year.

### Northwest Regional Development Agency: Liverpool

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to which projects in the Liverpool City region the North West Development Agency has allocated funding in each of the last five years; and what such allocations are planned for 2010-11. [3498]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the accountability and financial framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the regional economic strategy and their corporate plans. The Department does not hold details of individual projects supported by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

No final decisions have been made on how projects currently delivered by NWDA will be affected by the £270 million savings we are seeking from RDA's budgets. We will be writing to RDAs about the allocation shortly. We will then work with the RDA network to minimise the impact on priority programmes. Stakeholders and delivery partners involved in affected programmes and projects will be kept fully informed as specific decisions are made.

### Oil Companies

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* Shell, *(b)* BP and *(c)* other oil companies since taking up his post. [2756]

**Vince Cable:** None.

### One North East: Teesside

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) which projects in the Teesside area were allocated funding from One North East in 2010-11; [3162]

(2) to which projects in the Teesside local authority area One North East is considering allocating funding in 2010-11. [3163]

**Mr Prisk:** No final decisions have been made on how projects currently delivered by One North East will be affected by the £270 million savings we are seeking from RDAs' budgets. We will be writing to RDAs about the allocation shortly. We will then work with the RDA network to minimise the impact on priority programmes. Stakeholders and delivery partners involved in affected programmes and projects will be kept fully informed as specific decisions are made.

### Overseas Students

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many places on university courses are held by overseas students. [2347]

**Mr Willetts:** In 2008/09, there were 2,396,055 postgraduate and undergraduate students enrolled on full-time and part-time courses at UK higher education institutions, including the Open University. Of these students 117,660 (5%) were other European Union (EU) domiciled and 251,310 (10%) were non-EU overseas domiciled.

This is the latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be published by HESA in January 2011.

### Oxford and Cambridge Universities

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the Minister of State for Universities has *(a)* met, *(b)* spoken on the telephone and *(c)* corresponded with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of (i) Oxford and (ii) Cambridge. [2949]

**Mr Willetts:** I have received correspondence from the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University and the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, but have not yet met or spoken on the telephone to either Vice-Chancellor since my appointment.

### Regional Development Agencies

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what activity *(a)* each regional development agency and *(b)* the National Secretariat for Regional Development Agencies undertook prior to the general election to (i) lobby and (ii) communicate with Parliamentary candidates who were not previously hon. Members. [2430]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 15 June 2010]:* In the 12 months up to the May 2010 general election purdah period, Regional Development Agencies responded to prospective parliamentary candidates' requests for information and meetings on RDA activity and role within the region where they were made.

As my hon. Friend for Burton will be aware, Advantage West Midlands did approach a number of prospective Parliamentary candidates before the 2010 General Election to ascertain their view of regional economic development, functions carried out by regional development agencies and their thoughts on the future implementation of economic development and regeneration. This was an information gathering exercise designed to help AWM gauge local opinion as part of AWM's normal stakeholder relations process. At no time were these meetings used, or intended to be used, for lobbying on behalf of AWM.

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what timetable he has set for the conclusion of the review of the future of regional development agencies. [3333]

**Mr Prisk:** We will be providing further details about the replacement of regional development agencies with local enterprise partnerships shortly.

## EDUCATION

### Children: Social Services

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which local authorities have received funding under the Aiming High for children scheme; and what plans he has for that scheme after March 2011. [3112]

**Sarah Teather:** All local authorities in England received funding from The Aiming High for Disabled Children programme. Future plans for Government's funding for support of disabled children and their families will be finalised as part of the spending review which will report in the autumn.

This Government announced in May, as part of £6.2 billion savings from central Government, a commitment to invest in respite breaks for carers of severely disabled children from 2011-12, using recycled funding from the Government's contributions to the Children's Trust Fund.

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children have received assistance under the Aiming High for children scheme. [3113]

**Sarah Teather:** The Aiming High for Disabled Children programme has provided funding to improve services for disabled children and their families in all local authorities in England. Since funding is provided to local areas, we do not keep central records of the number of children that have received assistance from the programme.

For the short breaks/respite care element of the programme, we can estimate from the data we use to support local authorities' delivery of the programme that in the 21 pathfinder authorities more than 18,000 children have received a short break since 2007-08. Data on non-pathfinders will be available in the summer.

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment has been made of the outcomes of the Aiming High for children scheme. [3114]

**Sarah Teather:** There are a number of formal evaluations to assess the outcomes of the various strands of the Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme: evaluation of the short breaks element will be published in May 2011; the evaluation of the Individual Budget Pilots will be published in June 2011; and the Disabled Children's access to Childcare (DCATCH) is expected to be published in the summer of 2011.

In addition, parents of disabled children have been surveyed about their satisfaction with services for their children as part of a National Indicator.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to set out the schemes and programmes of his Department for which funding will be reduced or withdrawn. [877]

**Michael Gove:** I set out the breakdown of my Department's planned savings for 2010-11 in a letter to the right hon. Member for Morley and Outwood (Ed Balls) on 7 June 2010. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Libraries.

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education from which of his Department's budgets he plans to make savings in 2010-11 totalling £670 million. [1204]

**Michael Gove** *[holding answer 7 June 2010]:* I refer the right hon. Member to my letter of 7 June 2010, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries.

## TREASURY

### Child Tax Credit

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on net individual incomes of qualifying families in (i) each region of England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland of a reduction in the present qualifying threshold for the family element of child tax credit of (A) £10,000, (B) £20,000 and (C) £30,000. [1903]

**Justine Greening:** No such research has been commissioned or evaluated separately.

This was the arrangement under previous administrations and has not changed.

### Credit Unions

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on encouraging growth in the *(a)* number of and *(b)* number of members of credit unions. [2921]

**Mr Hoban** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* As set out in the coalition document, the Government will bring forward detailed proposals to foster diversity, promote mutuals and create a more competitive banking industry.

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on *(a)* de-regulation and *(b)* expansion of credit union services; and if he will make a statement. [3228]

**Mr Hoban:** As set out in the coalition agreement, the Government will bring forward detailed proposals to foster diversity, promote mutuals and create a more competitive banking industry.

### Departmental Reviews

**Andrew Miller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 137W, on Government departments: reviews, what reviews his Department is undertaking; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* timescale of each is. [2576]

**Justine Greening:** The Coalition Agreement sets out in detail the Government's future plans, including the key reviews it will be undertaking. The Department will bring forward detailed information about these reviews in due course.

### Equitable Life Assurance Society: Chester

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Equitable Life policyholders are resident in city of Chester constituency. [3083]

**Mr Hoban:** The Treasury does not hold the details of the number of Equitable Life policyholders resident in city of Chester constituency.

There has been no analysis to date of the distribution across the UK of those who have suffered loss.

### Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report,* columns 1-2WS, on Equitable Life, what the functions of the independent commission to determine the designs of the payment scheme will be; for how long he expects the commission to operate; how many members of the commission there will be; how they will be recruited; and at what level they will be remunerated. [2922]

**Mr Hoban** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* The Government have announced that they will establish an independent commission to determine the design of the scheme.

Further details on the commission will be announced in due course.

### Northwest Regional Development Agency

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report,* columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), whether property owned by the North West Regional Development Agency will be included in the proposed £170 million reduction in costs of Government property. [1736]

**Mr Prisk:** I have been asked to reply.

The £170 million funding is an estimate of the amount which property sales will contribute to the Government's £6 billion savings target. The eight regional development agencies outside London will be making a contribution to Government's overall savings target of £270 million. No final decisions have been made on which of the RDAs projects will be affected.

### Public Expenditure

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there will be a Barnett consequential as a result of reductions in expenditure in the National Affordable Housing Programme in addition to the consequential that was announced on 24 May 2010. [3055]

**Danny Alexander:** Reductions in expenditure in the National Affordable Housing Programme were announced as part of the £6.2 billion cuts announced on 24 May. The Barnett consequentials for the Welsh Assembly Government of the £6.2 billion cuts, including these, were announced on 24 May.

### Public Sector: Redundancy Pay

**John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what powers he has to limit the level of high-value severance packages paid to public sector employees. [652]

**Danny Alexander:** Severance packages are generally agreed by the relevant public sector employer, within parameters that have been set out for that employer with the responsible Minister's agreement and which have previously been approved by the Treasury. However, Departments are required to seek prior Treasury approval before they can make or approve any novel or contentious payment that falls outside such parameters, including any with a value in excess of the maximum that is contractually due. Details on the requirements for such specific Treasury approval are set out in 'Managing Public Money' Annex 4.13.

### Taxation: Overseas Companies

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has to ensure that multi-national companies registered in the UK report on their annual taxation paid in each country; [2837]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals for the introduction of country-by-country taxation reporting by companies registered in the UK; [2895]

(3) what his policy is on the reporting of taxation paid in overseas countries by companies registered in the UK. [2894]

**Mr Gauke:** The OECD's Task Force on Tax and Development is currently conducting a detailed examination of the issue of country-by-country reporting. The Government look forward to seeing the outcome of this work.

### Working Tax Credit: Carers

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to amend the system of working tax credits for carers. [3475]

**Justine Greening:** There are no current plans to amend the system of working tax credit for carers but the Government keeps all aspects of the tax credits system under review as part of the Budget.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Business: Closures

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many retail shops have closed in Dewsbury constituency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [2481]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many retail shops have closed in Dewsbury constituency in each of the last five years. [2481]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Information on the number of enterprise deaths by parliamentary constituency is only available from 2005 onwards. The table below contains the latest statistics available.

*Count of retail enterprise deaths in Dewsbury from 2005-08*

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dewsbury | 40 | 35 | 45 | 35 |

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the number of small businesses which have closed in *(a)* Dewsbury constituency and *(b)* Kirklees local authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [2482]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of small businesses which have closed in (a) Dewsbury constituency and (b) Kirklees local authority area in each year since 1997. [2482]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Information on the number of enterprise deaths by parliamentary constituency is only available from 2005 onwards. The table below contains the latest statistics available on small (less than 50 employment) enterprise deaths in Dewsbury Parliamentary Constituency from 2005 to 2008 and Kirklees local authority area from 2002 to 2008.

*The count of enterprise deaths with less than 50 employment from 2002-08*

| | Dewsbury | Kirklees |
|---|---|---|
| 2002 | [1]— | 1,005 |
| 2003 | [1]— | 1,235 |
| 2004 | [1]— | 1,365 |
| 2005 | 250 | 1,415 |
| 2006 | 230 | 1,325 |
| 2007 | 275 | 1,410 |
| 2008 | 260 | 1,325 |

[1] Not Available.

### Communities First Fund

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much funding will be available from the Communities First fund; when it will be made available; and if he will make a statement. [2691]

**Mr Hurd:** The Communities First fund is currently being developed by the Cabinet Office, and the total amount of funding available as well as other details will be developed as part of the Spending Review.

### Electoral Register

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the size of the population *(a)* entitled and *(b)* registered to vote in each parliamentary constituency at the May 2010 general election. [2892]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the size of the population (a) entitled and (b) registered to vote in each parliamentary constituency at the May 2010 general election (2892).

ONS publishes the number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections but does not hold data on the population entitled or eligible to vote. The ONS population estimates are of the resident population and will include some people who are not eligible to vote.

The table shows the number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections for each parliamentary constituency in the UK, as at 1st December 2009. These are the latest figures available. A copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

### Government Departments: Internet

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to reduce the cost to the public purse of maintaining Government websites; and if he will make a statement. [2288]

**Mr Hurd** *[holding answer 15 June 2010]:* The Central Office of Information is collating information on the costs, quality and usage of Department-run websites and my right hon. Friend intends to publish these finding before the summer recess. Once this information has been published he will set out how he intends to reduce the overall cost to the taxpayer.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers: Conduct

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what changes have been made to the Code of Conduct for special advisers since 7 May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [3534]

**Mr Maude:** The Prime Minister published the revised Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on 10 June, and placed copies in the Libraries of the House. The key changes to the revised Code are: a new requirement for Departments to publish quarterly information about gifts and hospitality received by special advisers; a requirement for applications from all special advisers wishing to take up jobs within two years of leaving the civil service to be considered by the Independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments regardless of seniority; no severance to be paid to special advisers who resign from the civil service on being announced as a candidate or prospective candidate for election to Parliament; and additional text about the restrictions on special advisers which reflects the provisions of section 8(5) of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers: Pay

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the lowest salary is of a special adviser. [3190]

**Mr Maude:** I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's written statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 32WS.

### Senior Civil Servants: Pay

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials in each *(a)* Department, *(b)* non-departmental public body and *(c)* agency with salaries greater than £150,000 declined to have details of their salaries published by his Department. [2387]

**Mr Maude:** On 1 June we published details of 172 public servants working in central Government Departments or agencies paid at a full-time annual rate of £150,000 or more. As has been set out on the Cabinet Office website, 10 individuals withheld their consent to disclosure, citing the Data Protection Act. Of these, nine work in central Government Departments and one in an agency. We have not provided a breakdown by Department at this stage, as to do so might risk the identification of the individuals involved. The details published on 1 June did not include individuals paid by non-departmental public bodies. We intend to extend coverage to those in due course.

### Unemployment

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of the working age population in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the United Kingdom were unemployed in each year since 1980. [3612]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of the working age population in (a) Wales and (b) the United Kingdom were unemployed in each year since 1980. (3612)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number and proportion of the working age population who are unemployed and resident in the UK and Wales. This definition differs from the normal preferred measures of unemployment, which are based on the number of unemployed aged 16+ and the proportion of economically active people who are unemployed. The preferred unemployment measures have been provided in Table 2 for comparison.

Estimates on the number of people unemployed in Wales are not available for periods prior to March-May 1992.

*Table 1. Number and proportion of people of working age who are unemployed and resident in the United Kingdom and Wales*

*Seasonally adjusted*

| | *United Kingdom* | | *Wales* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Thousand* | *%*[1] | *Thousand* | *%*[1] |
| February to April 1980 | 1,579 | 4.8 | — | — |
| February to April 1981 | 2,453 | 7.4 | — | — |
| February to April 1982 | 2,789 | 8.3 | — | — |
| February to April 1983 | 2,985 | 8.9 | — | — |
| February to April 1984 | 3,208 | 9.5 | — | — |
| February to April 1985 | 3,122 | 9.1 | — | — |
| February to April 1986 | 3,107 | 9.1 | — | — |
| February to April 1987 | 3,050 | 8.9 | — | — |
| February to April 1988 | 2,531 | 7.3 | — | — |
| February to April 1989 | 2,090 | 6.0 | — | — |
| February to April 1990 | 1,968 | 5.7 | — | — |
| February to April 1991 | 2,340 | 6.7 | — | — |
| March to May 1992[2] | 2,763 | 7.9 | 118 | 6.9 |
| February to April 1993 | 2,955 | 8.5 | 131 | 7.7 |
| February to April 1994 | 2,740 | 7.8 | 122 | 7.2 |

*Table 1: Number and proportion of people of working age who are unemployed and resident in the United Kingdom and Wales*

*Seasonally adjusted*

| | *United Kingdom* | | *Wales* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Thousand* | *%*[1] | *Thousand* | *%*[1] |
| February to April 1995 | 2,469 | 7.0 | 115 | 6.8 |
| February to April 1996 | 2,328 | 6.6 | 114 | 6.7 |
| February to April 1997 | 2,027 | 5.7 | 109 | 6.4 |
| February to April 1998 | 1,777 | 5.0 | 97 | 5.7 |
| February to April 1999 | 1,755 | 4.9 | 93 | 5.4 |
| February to April 2000 | 1,638 | 4.6 | 85 | 4.9 |
| February to April 2001 | 1,442 | 4.0 | 77 | 4.5 |
| February to April 2002 | 1,504 | 4.1 | 75 | 4.3 |
| February to April 2003 | 1,498 | 4.1 | 65 | 3.7 |
| February to April 2004 | 1,420 | 3.9 | 67 | 3.8 |
| February to April 2005 | 1,398 | 3.8 | 61 | 3.4 |
| February to April 2006 | 1,600 | 4.3 | 68 | 3.8 |
| February to April 2007 | 1,661 | 4.4 | 80 | 4.5 |
| February to April 2008 | 1,631 | 4.3 | 75 | 4.2 |
| February to April 2009 | 2,248 | 5.9 | 108 | 6.0 |
| February to April 2010[3] | *2,437 | 6.4 | **123 | 6.9 |

— = Data not available.

[1] Percentage of working age population.

[2] March to May has been used for 1992 because these are the earliest data available for Wales.

[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent, we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

| *Key* | *Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%)* | *Statistical Robustness* |
|---|---|---|
| * | 0 = CV<5 | Estimates are considered precise |
| ** | 5 = CV <10 | Estimates are considertd reasonably precise |
| *** | 10 = CV <20 | Estimates are considered acceptable |
| **** | CV <20 | Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes |

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey

*Table 2: Number of people unemployed and unemployment rate for people aged 16+ resident in the United Kingdom and Wales*

*Seasonally adjusted*

| | *United Kingdom* | | *Wales* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Thousand* | *%*[1] | *Thousand* | *%*[1] |
| February to April 1980 | 1,603 | 6.0 | — | — |
| February to April 1981 | 2,476 | 9.1 | — | — |
| February to April 1982 | 2,813 | 10.5 | — | — |
| February to April 1983 | 3,008 | 11.3 | — | — |
| February to April 1984 | 3,263 | 11.9 | — | — |
| February to April 1985 | 3,169 | 11.4 | — | — |
| February to April 1986 | 3,151 | 11.3 | — | — |
| February to April 1987 | 3,090 | 11.0 | — | — |
| February to April 1988 | 2,569 | 9.0 | — | — |
| February to April 1989 | 2,140 | 7.4 | — | — |
| February to April 1990 | 2,004 | 6.9 | — | — |
| February to April 1991 | 2,378 | 8.2 | — | — |
| March to May 1992[2] | 2,795 | 9.8 | 119 | 9.1 |
| February to April 1993 | 2,986 | 10.6 | 132 | 10.4 |
| February to April 1994 | 2,768 | 9.8 | 123 | 9.6 |
| February to April 1995 | 2,489 | 8.8 | 116 | 9.0 |
| February to April 1996 | 2,350 | 8.3 | 114 | 8.8 |
| February to April 1997 | 2,052 | 7.2 | 109 | 8.3 |
| February to April 1998 | 1,799 | 6.3 | 98 | 7.6 |
| February to April 1999 | 1,773 | 6.2 | 94 | 7.2 |
| February to April 2000 | 1,654 | 5.7 | 85 | 6.5 |
| February to April 2001 | 1,459 | 5.0 | 78 | 6.0 |
| February to April 2002 | 1,522 | 5.2 | 76 | 5.8 |
| February to April 2003 | 1,517 | 5.1 | 65 | 4.7 |
| February to April 2004 | 1,437 | 4.8 | 68 | 4.9 |
| February to April 2005 | 1,417 | 4.7 | 61 | 4.4 |
| February to April 2006 | 1,627 | 5.3 | 69 | 4.9 |
| February to April 2007 | 1,687 | 5.5 | 81 | 5.7 |
| February to April 2008 | 1,653 | 5.3 | 76 | 5.3 |
| February to April 2009 | 2,280 | 7.3 | 110 | 7.7 |
| February to April 2010[3] | *2,472 | 7.9 | **123 | 8.5 |

— = Data not available.
[1] Proportion of economically active.
[2] March to May has been used for 1992 because these are the earliest data available for Wales.
[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

| *Key* | *Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%)* | *Statistical Robustness* |
|---|---|---|
| * | 0 = CV<5 | Estimates are considered precise |
| ** | 5 = CV <10 | Estimates are considered reasonably precise |
| *** | 10 = CV <20 | Estimates are considered acceptable |
| **** | CV <20 | Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes |

*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

## Unemployment: Young People

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* nominal and *(b)* percentage change in youth unemployment in Dewsbury constituency was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [2480]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) nominal and (b) percentage change in youth unemployment in Dewsbury constituency was in each of the last five years. (2480)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of unemployment for the requested age band and geography are not available.

As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of persons aged 18 to 24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the Dewsbury constituency for April in each year since 2005 along with the actual and percentage changes.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1: Number of persons aged 18 to 24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in Dewsbury constituency*

| | | *Change on year* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Level* | *Level* | *Percentage* |
| April 2005 | 310 | — | — |
| April 2006 | 435 | 125 | 39 |
| April 2007 | 480 | 45 | 10 |
| April 2008 | 490 | 10 | 3 |
| April 2009 | 920 | 430 | 88 |
| April 2010 | 880 | -40 | -4 |

*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 22 June 2010*

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Betting Shops: Licensing

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many applications for a betting shop licence have been refused by London local authorities in the latest period for which figures are available. [2953]

**John Penrose:** Betting premises licences are issued by local licensing authorities under the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act). Under section 165 of the Act, a licensing authority must give notice of a rejected application to the Gambling Commission.

On the basis of the data supplied to the Commission by local authorities five betting premises licence applications have been rejected by London local authorities since 1 September 2007.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3209]

**John Penrose:** The Department does not offer the use of dedicated drivers or pool cars to civil servants or special advisers.

The Department has an account for taxi services which is only used in exceptional circumstances (e.g. when no other suitable method of public transport is available, or heavy baggage has to be transported).

### Departmental Pay

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 27W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [3246]

**John Penrose:** The following table shows the pay ranges for staff employed in the private office of each Minister in the Department.

| *Civil service grades* | *Pay range* |
|---|---|
| SCS Pay Band 1 | £58,200—£117,750 |
| Grade 6 | £52,963—£66,005 |
| Grade 7 | £45,380—£54,595 |
| Higher Executive Officer/Senior Executive Officer | £29,263—£36,043 |
| Executive Officer | £23,197—£25,952 |

In addition to base pay, staff in the private office of each Minister are also entitled to an allowance to cover all additional working hours including travel time and weekend working.

The allowances are set out in the following table:

| *Civil service grades* | *Allowance (£)* |
|---|---|
| SCS Pay Band 1 | 8,500 |
| Grade 6 | 8,500 |
| Grade 7 | 8,500 |
| Higher Executive Officer/Senior Executive Officer | 6,500 |
| Executive Officer (Assistant Private Secretary) | 5,000 |
| Executive Officer (Diary Secretary) | 4,500 |

### Departmental Reviews

**Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Government departments: reviews, what reviews his Department is undertaking; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* timescale of each is. [2580]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** The coalition agreement sets out in detail the Government's future plans, including the key reviews it will be undertaking. My Department will bring forward detailed information about these reviews in due course.

### Mass Media

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has met representatives of *(a)* News International, *(b)* the BBC and *(c)* ITV since his appointment. [3560]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** I have met the chairman of the BBC Trust and both the chairman and CEO of ITV.

I intend to meet the chairman and chief executive of News Corporation, Europe and Asia, and the director-general of the BBC, in the coming weeks.

### Museums and Galleries: Finance

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether proposals to build a national film centre are to be funded *(a)* at the level and *(b)* to the timetable set out on 16 October 2009. [3551]

**Mr Vaizey:** As announced on 16 June, because of the severe financial problems inherited by the Government we are unable at present to contribute to the BFI Film Centre. We are however planning fundamentally to reassess how we support film to ensure that the industry is ready for the challenges it will face in the decade to come.

### Television: Licensing

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will extend free television licences to all those of pensionable age. [3736]

**Mr Vaizey:** Free television licences are currently available to those aged 75 and over. There are no current plans to extend this concession.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review; [3646]

(2) to ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3668]

**David Mundell:** The Scotland Office mainly uses framework contracts negotiated by the Ministry of Justice and to a lesser extent the Scottish Government thus allowing it to take advantage of economies of scale. We will ensure that the Scotland Office input into contracts renegotiated by others leads to the reduction of costs. All Scotland Office officials responsible for spending are working actively to reduce expenditure.

## TRANSPORT

### Biofuels: EU Action

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of progress in discussions at EU level on the development of mandatory sustainability criteria for biofuels. [2333]

**Norman Baker:** The European Commission published a Communication document on 10 June 2010. This provides guidance to member states on implementing the biofuels sustainability requirements of the Renewable Energy Directive and the Fuel Quality Directive. Details of some specific aspects of the sustainability criteria will be established through a process of comitology in which the UK will be fully involved.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the provision of free bus passes for people in receipt of disability living allowance. [3781]

**Norman Baker:** The categories of eligibility for free bus passes are set out in legislation. It is for local authorities to assess whether a person is eligible to receive a bus pass on the grounds of disability and the Department for Transport issues guidance to assist them in doing this. The Department's guidance advises that eligibility for a concessionary travel pass may be considered "automatic" (not requiring further assessment) where a person is in receipt of the higher rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance provided that the award of the benefit is expected to be for at least 12 months.

### Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

**Jackie Doyle-Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will conduct a study into the costs and benefits of removing the tolls plaza at the Dartford Crossing and collecting the charge electronically. [2762]

**Mike Penning:** The Coalition Government are committed to supporting new transport technologies, and I have asked for further advice from officials on the costs, possible funding sources and benefits of options to improve the performance of the Dartford Crossing, such as the use of newer charging technologies.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the URL is of each website managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which his Department is responsible. [2374]

**Norman Baker:** The URLs for the websites managed by *(a)* the Department for Transport and *(b)* non departmental public bodies and agencies are as follows:

| *Departments* | *URL* |
|---|---|
| Department for Transport | www.dft.gov.uk |
| | www.transportdirect.info |
| | www.safed.org.uk |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | www.dvlaonline.gov.uk |
| | www.dvlaprizedraw.org |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | www.vca.gov.uk |
| | www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | www.mcga.gov.uk |
| | www.ukshipregister.co.uk |
| | www.redensigngroup.org |
| | www.mcapodcasts.co.uk |
| Driving Standards Agency | www.dsa.gov.uk |
| Highways Agency | www.highways.gov.uk |
| | www.itsradarinternational.info |
| | www.standardsforhighways.co.uk |
| | www.esdal.com |
| | www.tsplansregistry.org |
| | www.ha-partnernet.org.uk |
| | www.halogenonline.co.uk |
| | www.ha-research.gov.uk |
| | www.trafficengland.com |
| | www.trafficradio.org.uk |
| NDPBS and other organisations | www.aaib.gov.uk |
| | www.maib.gov.uk |
| | www.raib.gov.uk |
| | www.lowcvp.org.uk |
| | www.rail-reg.gov.uk |
| | www.passengerfocus.org.uk |
| | www.nlb.org.uk |

| *Departments* | *URL* |
|---|---|
| | www.trinityhouse.co.uk |
| | www.bikeability.org.uk |
| | www.renewablefuelsagency.gov.uk |

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 35WS, on transport (local authority major schemes), which major schemes for local authorities in each region which had been granted conditional approval or programme entry by the previous administration are now under review. [2751]

**Norman Baker:** All the local authority schemes granted conditional approval or programme entry by the previous administration are subject to review as part of the overall spending review. These schemes are as follows, grouped by region. Those marked with an asterisk were awarded conditional approval. All others were awarded programme entry only.

*East of England*

Ipswich: Transport Fit for the 21st Century (Suffolk)
Luton Town Centre Transport Scheme (Luton)
Watford Junction Interchange (Hertfordshire)
Norwich Northern Distributor Road (Norfolk)

*East Midlands*

Mansfield Public Transport Interchange Scheme (Nottinghamshire)
A43 Corby Link Road (Northamptonshire)
A509 Isham Bypass (Northamptonshire)
Loughborough Town Centre Transport Scheme (Leicestershire)
Nottingham Ring Road (Nottingham)
Hucknall Town Centre Improvement Scheme (Nottinghamshire)

*North East*

Sunderland Central Route (Sunderland)
Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor (Sunderland)
A1056 Northern Gateway (North Tyneside)

*North West*

Rochdale Interchange (GMPTE)
Cross City Bus (GMPTE)
Mersey Gateway (Second Mersey Crossing) (Halton)
Completion of Heysham to M6 Link Road (Lancashire)
Crewe Green Link Southern Section (Cheshire East)
Pennine Reach (East Lancs Rapid Transit) (Blackburn)
Thornton to Switch Island Link (Sefton)

*South East*

Reading Station Highway Works (Reading)*
A244 Walton Bridge (Surrey)*
Bexhill to Hastings Link Road (East Sussex)

*South West*

Isles of Scilly Link (Cornwall)*
East of Exeter Improvements (Devon)
Taunton Northern Inner Distributor Road (Somerset)
Weston-Super-Mare Package (North East Somerset)
Bath Transportation Package (Bath and North East Somerset)
Camborne-Pool-Redruth Transport Package (Cornwall)
Bus Rapid Transit-Ashton Vale to Temple Meads (Bristol)

*West Midlands*

Darlaston Strategic Development Area Access Project (Walsall)
Midland Metro Birmingham City Centre Extension (Centro)

*Yorkshire and the Humber*

Waverley Link Road (Rotherham)
A6182 White Rose Way Improvement Scheme (Doncaster)
Castleford Town Centre Integrated Transport Scheme (Metro)
A57 M1 Junction 31 to Todwick Crossroads Improvement (Rotherham)
Leeds Station Southern Access (Metro)
Access York Phase 1 (York)
Beverley Integrated Transport Plan (East Riding)
A18-A180 Link (North East Lincolnshire)
A684 Bedale/Aiskew/Leeming Bar Bypass (North Yorkshire)
Leeds New Generation Transport (Metro).

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* rolling stock and *(b)* highway improvement schemes have been deferred as part of his Department's contribution to in-year expenditure reductions for 2010-11. [2757]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** In light of the current fiscal position, and a softening of demand, a reappraisal of all un-committed High-Level Output Specification schemes will now commence, taking account of the National Audit Office report entitled "Increasing Passenger Rail Capacity" which was published on 4 June 2010. This report is available on the NAO website at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1011/rail_capacity.aspx

Three highway improvement schemes have been deferred as part of the Department for Transport's contribution to in-year expenditure reductions for 2010-11. The three schemes are:

A453—Widening
A23—Handcross to Warninglid
M6—Junctions 5 to 8.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what categories of grants by his Department to local authorities will be included in his plans for reductions in spending. [2759]

**Norman Baker:** The Government have made clear that their most urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record deficit. To help achieve this, on 10 June the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) announced £1.166 billion of savings from grants to local authorities. Details of all grant reductions are available on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/local governmentfinance/

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 35WS, on transport (local authority major schemes), what priorities have been set for use in the reviews of transport projects which have programme entry or conditional approval to determine whether they may proceed. [3495]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* The principles that will apply to the spending review across all Departments are set out in the 2010 Spending Review Framework document, published by Her Majesty's Treasury on 8 June 2010.

In the coalition agreement we committed to reform the way decisions are made on which transport projects to prioritise, so that the benefits of low-carbon proposals (including light rail schemes) are fully recognised. We will announce details of how this reform is to be implemented in due course.

### Forth Road Bridge

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department and its agencies plan to provide to maintain the Forth Road Bridge in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14; and if he will make a statement. [3718]

**Norman Baker:** The provision of road transport in Scotland is a devolved matter. It would therefore be for the Scottish Government (through Transport Scotland) to allocate funding to the Forth Road Bridge.

### Government Car and Despatch Agency

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* make, *(b)* model and *(c)* place of manufacture was of each car (i) purchased and (ii) leased by the Government Car Service since 6 May 2010; and how much each cost to purchase or lease. [2443]

**Mike Penning:** Since 6 May 2010 the Government Car Service has (i) not purchased any vehicles and (ii) not leased any vehicles.

### M18: Closures

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the M18 motorway was closed between junctions 3 and 4 in the early part of the evening of 10 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [3477]

**Mike Penning:** The M18 was closed overnight, 9pm to 6am between junctions 3 and 4 northbound on 10 June to allow resurfacing of lane one of the carriageway to be undertaken safely. At this location the M18 is a dual two lane motorway with hard shoulder. It is therefore not possible to provide an adequate safety zone in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual for the protection of the workforce using the existing carriageway layout.

These works were part of a planned routine maintenance scheme that consisted of the resurfacing of lane one of the north and southbound carriageways of the motorway to address significant areas of rutting, together with associated lining and studding reinstatement works. The works were required to ensure the continued safe operation of the motorway and were planned to minimise disruption to road users by being carried out overnight on weekdays.

Clearly signed diversion routes were in place and had been agreed with Doncaster Metropolitan borough council and South Yorkshire police. A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order was in place to allow closure of the motorway at this location. A press release for these works was issued with coverage in the Yorkshire Post on 7 June 2010.

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason information on the closure of the M18 motorway on 10 June 2010 was not given on overhead warning gantries on the M1 motorway on that date in locations other than South Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [3483]

**Mike Penning:** Variable Message Signs (VMS) were set due to overnight roadworks from 8.20 pm on M1 back to Junction 29. Additional manual VMS signs were set at 11.12 pm expanding the warning area of the closure back to Junction 28, and suggesting motorists take a diversion route via M1/M62. All signage was taken off at 6.46 am.

The signs were not set at other locations because journey time data indicated the local diversion was handling the extra traffic with no delays reported in the area.

### Motorways: Speed Limits

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what length of motorways was subject to 50 mph speed reductions and average speed camera monitoring at the latest date for which information is available. [2524]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* On 10 June 2010, the latest date for which information is available, there were 189 carriageway miles of motorway with roadworks that were subject to a 50 mile per hour speed limit and had average speed cameras.

The Highways Agency provides average speed cameras at temporary road works to assist the police with the capability to enforce reduced speed limits.

On motorways and trunk roads, the speed limit at roadworks is reduced to support both the safety of road users and the work force.

### Private Roads: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of unadopted roads in Denton and Reddish constituency. [3277]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport has made no estimate of the number of unadopted roads in Denton and Reddish constituency.

### Roads: Accidents

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road accidents there were in the Kirklees local authority area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [3411]

(2) how many road accident fatalities there were in the Kirklees local authority area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [3412]

**Mike Penning:** The information requested is given in the following table:

*Number of reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities in these accidents in Kirklees local authority: 2004-08*

| | Accidents | Fatalities |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 1,344 | 15 |
| 2005 | 1,326 | 18 |
| 2006 | 1,285 | 17 |
| 2007 | 1,299 | 9 |
| 2008 | 1,208 | 5 |

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### EU Enlargement

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he expects *(a)* Croatia, *(b)* Bosnia and Herzegovina, *(c)* Macedonia and *(d)* Iceland to join the EU. [1007]

**Mr Lidington:** The UK firmly supports the objective of EU membership for all four countries and fully expects them to join the EU once they have met the accession criteria. The Government will continue to champion the EU's enlargement, including to the western Balkans and Turkey, on the basis of rigorous application of the entry criteria.

### EU Institutions: Fines

**Ian Paisley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions the UK Permanent Representative to the EU has had on the financial correction levied on the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [978]

**Mr Lidington:** UK responsible authorities have regular discussions on the implementation and administration of common agricultural policy payments, including any disallowance resulting from audits by the European Commission. In the case of the recent financial corrections proposed on the UK in connection with the administration of area aids by the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland, officials from that Department have discussed the case with both the European Commission and the UK Permanent Representative.

### Gibraltar: Equality

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 100W, on Gibraltar: equality, when he expects Gibraltar to meet its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights in relation to an equal age of consent. [2291]

**Mr Lidington:** Action by the Government of Gibraltar to equalise its law on the age of consent is likely to be dependent on the timing and outcome of the case before the Gibraltar courts. The UK has sought to intervene in the case to make clear the international obligations which are engaged in this matter.

### Human Rights: Finance

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the merits of establishing an emergency fund to assist human rights activists and their families in countries where they are likely to face persecution. [3712]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) strategic programme fund for human rights and democracy already provides funding for human rights defenders under its civil society strand.

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, an EU programme fund is accessible to non-governmental organisations. It has certain funds earmarked for supporting Human Rights Defenders, including those at risk. This funding can be accessed in individual countries or through Brussels.

Working bilaterally and in conjunction with other international organisations, including under the EU's Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, UK embassies take practical action to support human rights defenders through attending events, supporting their activities and raising the profile of human rights issues both privately and publicly.

### Iran: Sanctions

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to enforce sanctions against Iran; and if he will make a statement. [2932]

**Alistair Burt:** This Government are committed to the rapid and rigorous enforcement of the measures adopted under UN Security Council Resolution 1929 and we are working to implement measures as soon as possible. Upon adoption the UK Borders Agency added additional designations to their watch list and the Treasury took the necessary steps to ensure that newly designated entities will have their assets frozen if they attempt to operate within the UK. British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies have also been notified of action that they are required to take.

We are working with EU partners to ensure the harmonised implementation of UN measures and we are seeking tough additional EU measures. The 17 June European Council Declaration on Iran is a statement of intent. We welcome the creation of a UN Panel of Experts, mandated by the resolution, who will examine and report on the implementation of sanctions against Iran. The Government will submit a report to the UN Secretariat on the measures it has taken to implement the latest round of sanctions in coming months.

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have informed him of an intention to participate in the enforcement of sanctions against Iran. [3126]

**Alistair Burt:** UN Security Council resolution 1929 was passed on 9 June 2010 and set out new sanctions against Iran. Under Chapter VII of the UN Charter all member states are now required to apply these sanctions.

In addition the European Council issued a Declaration on Iran on 17 June 2010, which set out a range of areas where the EU will pursue additional sanctions against Iran.

### Palestinians: Human Rights

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take at the United Nations in response to allegations of human rights abuses by members of Hamas in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [2971]

**Alistair Burt:** The UN Security Council discusses the situation in the Middle East on a monthly basis including the urgent need for Hamas to renounce violence. UN Security Council Resolution 1860 was clear in its condemnation on the use of violence by all parties. We continue to call for its full implementation.

More widely we call on Hamas to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles, unconditionally to release Gilad Shalit, who has been held in captivity for four years, and to end its interference with the operations of non-governmental organisations and UN agencies in Gaza.

### Sudan: Elections

**Mr Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had on ensuring the Border Commission in Sudan reports back and its recommendations are implemented before the Comprehensive Peace Agreement referendum takes place. [3470]

**Mr Bellingham:** Demarcation of the North/South border in Sudan is a central element of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. We understand that the majority of the border has now been agreed by the Border Committee. However, there are several outstanding sections which remain unagreed. Demarcation on the ground of the agreed sections has begun. The Government of National Unity has said that the border will be demarcated in advance of the Referendum on Self-Determination for South Sudan in January 2011.

We will continue to urge both Sudanese parties to ensure full implementation of the Agreement, including demarcation of the border and the holding of a peaceful and credible Referendum.

### Turkey: EU Enlargement

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to assist Turkey accede to the EU. [2111]

**Mr Lidington:** Turkey's accession to the EU is a key goal for the Government, subject to the rigorous application of the accession criteria. We work closely with Turkey, both bilaterally and at the EU level, to support progress in their domestic reform programme to meet all the requirements of the EU acquis. We also encourage Turkey's efforts to support the Cyprus settlement process, and call for Turkey to implement the Additional Ankara Protocol.

## WALES

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Mr David:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the progress of the Future Rapid Effects System Scout programme in Wales. [3155]

**Mrs Gillan:** I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence.

Like all defence spending in the UK, the Future Rapid Effects System Scout programme is currently being considered under a Strategic Defence and Security Review. The coalition Government are committed to ensuring that we get the best value for money on all Government spending, including defence spending.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr David:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans she has to appoint a special adviser. [3154]

**Mrs Gillan:** I have appointed a special adviser with effect from 5 July.

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many special advisers are employed at each grade in the Wales Office. [3459]

**Mrs Gillan:** One special adviser at Pay Band 1 will be employed from 5 July 2010 in the Wales Office.

### Devolution

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in her Department are engaged full-time on preparations for a referendum on further powers for the Welsh Assembly. [3455]

**Mrs Gillan:** Two. Other members of staff, including legal advisers, are also engaged on the referendum preparations alongside their other work.

### RAF St Athan

**Mr David:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the development of a defence technical college at St Athan. [2697]

**Mrs Gillan:** I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence.

Like all defence spending in the UK, the proposed Defence Technical College at St Athan is currently being considered under a Strategic Defence and Security Review. The coalition Government are committed to ensuring that they get best value for money on all Government spending, including defence spending.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Terrorism

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will hold immediate discussions with the Secretary of State for Justice on the findings regarding the security situation in Northern Ireland in the report of 27 May 2010 from the Independent Monitoring Commission. [3353]

**Mr Paterson:** I do not plan to meet with the Secretary of State for Justice to discuss the findings regarding the security situation in Northern Ireland in the report of the 27 May 2010 from the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC). I am not aware of any matters in the report that are relevant to the Justice Secretary's responsibilities. I have discussed this issue with the Minister of Justice of the Northern Ireland Executive, David Ford. He is aware of the findings and supportive of the IMC's work. I am committed to continuing to work closely with the Minister of Justice on all matters of joint interest.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* new helicopters, *(b)* armoured vehicles and *(c)* protected vehicles have been delivered to Afghanistan in each of the last five years; and how much funding is planned to be allocated for such purposes by (i) his Department and (ii) the Treasury Reserve in each of the next three years. [2540]

**Dr Fox:** We do not provide actual numbers of armoured or protected vehicles and helicopters for operational security reasons.

The forward defence equipment programme will be considered as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, and priority will continue to be given to the delivery of equipment required to support operations in Afghanistan. For this reason projects delivering capability to Afghanistan were exempted from the Government's recent review of approvals. An annual estimate for Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) expenditure from the Reserve is agreed with HM Treasury. For financial year 2010-11, an estimate of £850 million for UORs has been agreed. In addition, as the Prime Minister announced on 10 June, the Treasury has agreed to provide an additional £67 million on top of this estimate for critical Counter-Improvised Explosive Device equipment, including a number of specialist MASTIFF vehicles.

### Armed Forces: Young People

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the use of MOD Form 90 as proof of age in public houses. [3070]

**Mr Robathan:** MOD Form 90 is an internal document and is not ordinarily intended to be used as a universal identity card. However, it does show the date of birth of the holder. Therefore, I have asked officials to consider ways of encouraging wider acceptance by retailers and establishments of this form of identity as proof of age for the purpose of obtaining goods and services, including the purchase of alcohol and tobacco.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what properties his Department and its non-departmental public bodies *(a)* own and *(b)* lease overseas; whether those properties are shared with other Government departments and agencies; and whether he plans (i) to sell the building or (ii) cancel the lease in each case. [3523]

**Mr Robathan:** The Ministry of Defence manages a considerable overseas estate including training areas, barracks, Service family and other official accommodation, in a number of countries including Germany, Canada, Kenya and Cyprus as well as Gibraltar and the South Atlantic Islands.

This estate exists solely to support the outputs of defence and is kept under constant review to ensure that it is no larger than required. In most cases, land or properties are occupied under agreements with the host Governments on a rent free basis. Some service housing is leased from private local landlords, but very few properties are owned freehold.

When a property becomes surplus to defence requirements, arrangements are made to hand it back to the host nation Government, to terminate the lease at an appropriate point, or to sell the property (if freehold).

The information required to fully answer the question has to be compiled from a number of sources and a list setting out the overseas estate and other details will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of proposed reductions in numbers of non-frontline staff in his Department and its agencies. [486]

**Dr Fox:** We do not distinguish between frontline and non-frontline staff. Information in this format could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Decisions on how many military and civilian personnel we need for the future will be made in the context of the Government's Strategic Defence and Security Review. The defence section of this review will conclude by the autumn, alongside the Government's Spending Review. Should it be necessary for any staff to be made redundant, the Department will pay compensation in accordance with its legal obligations.

### HMS Southampton

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* location, *(b)* status and *(c)* plans for the disposal are of HMS Southampton. [3625]

**Peter Luff:** HMS SOUTHAMPTON left service with the Royal Navy in February 2009 and is currently berthed at HM Naval Base Portsmouth where essential equipment is being removed for use on other operational Type 42 Destroyers. On current plans, SOUTHAMPTON is due to be handed over to the Ministry of Defence's Disposal Services Authority later this year; the options for her disposal remain under review.

### Trident

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms of reference are of his Trident value for money review; and if he will make a statement. [3837]

**Dr Fox:** The Government are committed to a continuous at sea nuclear deterrent based on a Trident missile system. The value for money review is to ensure that plans to replace the current Vanguard class submarine are being taken forward in the most cost effective manner possible.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Land Use

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to protect Grade One agricultural land. [2663]

**Mr Paice:** The Government will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning policy framework setting out our national economic, environmental and social priorities. An announcement on how we propose to take forward the national framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy will be made in due course.

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her policy is on the future of the Pillar II element of the Common Agricultural Policy; [2897]

(2) if she will discuss with her EU counterparts the further development of Pillar II funding as part of the discussions on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy beyond 2013. [2901]

**Mr Paice:** The current Pillar II of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) plays an important role in delivering non market-distorting benefits for society through sustainable land management, and support for the competitiveness of the farming and forestry sectors and the rural economy. A future CAP must continue to reward farmers for the provision of societal benefits not otherwise rewarded by the market.

DEFRA Ministers have started, and will continue, to engage with Commission and member state counterparts to ensure that the UK is at the heart of negotiations on the CAP.

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the use of modulation in respect of Pillar II of the Common Agricultural Policy. [2900]

**Mr Paice:** In the current programming period (2007-13), modulation is an important mechanism to provide funding for the provision of public goods in Pillar 2. In particular, in England, modulation provides the funding which is essential to enable us to continue with our agri-environment schemes, which deliver important benefits for biodiversity, landscape and the protection of natural resources.

### Animal Welfare: Circuses

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future regulation of use of wild animals in circuses. [2763]

**Mr Paice:** We will consider the results of the recent public consultation exercise on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses before deciding what future action to take, if any.

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of representations received on the Government's consultation on the use of wild animals in circuses; [3130]

(2) if she will ban the use of wild animals in circuses. [3131]

**Mr Paice:** The previous Government issued an initial analysis of responses to their consultation on the use of wild animals in circuses. We will consider the results of the consultation exercise before deciding what future action to take, if any.

### Biofuels

**Mr Spencer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to support farmers diversifying into energy production. [3065]

**Mr Paice:** Grants for the establishment of dedicated perennial energy crops, such as Miscanthus and short rotation coppice, are available through the Energy Crops scheme, which is funded under the Rural Development programme for England (RDPE).

Feed in tariffs (FITs) are available to farmers, and other generators, to support new anaerobic digestion, hydro, solar photovoltaic, and wind projects, up to a maximum capacity of 5 Megawatts (MW). Varying levels of FIT support are offered, depending on the technology and the capacity of the installation. We are currently exploring how we can help more farmers make use of anaerobic digestion technology.

The Renewables Obligation provides support for large scale electricity generation stations and combined heat and power plants (including anaerobic digesters) over 5MW, which are fuelled by energy crops, regular biomass and biomass waste.

Farmers wishing to diversify their businesses, including into energy production, may be eligible for assistance under the RDPE. Farmers should contact their local Regional Development Agency to discuss what funding may be available.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her policy is on the control of bovine tuberculosis in cattle; and if she will make a statement; [3062]

(2) what assessment she has made of the conclusions of the June 2007 Report of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB on the introduction of badger culling to the future control of cattle tuberculosis. [3066]

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps she plans to take to ensure that all scientific views are taken into account before determining her policy on any badger cull in England; [3143]

(2) whether her Department has identified areas with high and persistent levels of bovine tuberculosis; [3145]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of badger culling as a means of controlling bovine tuberculosis. [3146]

**Mr Paice:** Bovine tuberculosis is one of the most worrying animal health problems facing our cattle farmers, and dealing with it is a high priority for the Department.

Bovine TB is largely a regional problem, with high and persistent levels of the disease concentrated in the South West and West Midlands in England, and in South-West Wales.

We are currently considering all the issues carefully, including the scientific evidence, to work out the detail of a package of measures to tackle bovine TB. We will be looking at culling and vaccination options as part of that package.

The coalition Government have committed that as part of a package of measures, we will introduce a carefully managed and science-led policy of badger control in areas with high and persistent levels of TB in cattle. We are currently developing that package of measures, considering all the issues carefully, including the scientific evidence, to work out the detail and to make sure we get it right.

The most recent results from post-trial analyses of the randomised badger culling trial show a continued beneficial effect on the incidence of TB in cattle within the culled areas for at least three and a half years after the culling ended. We will be considering this latest evidence alongside all the other relevant evidence and issues before taking a decision.

I have also met the TB eradication group for England and asked them to advise me on this package of measures.

### Cattle: Animal Welfare

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce the effects on the health of cattle of selective breeding for high milk yield. [3132]

**Mr Paice:** In taking steps to reduce the effects on the health of cattle of selective breeding for high milk yield, we fully recognise the need to improve the health, welfare and longevity of dairy cows. This includes enhancing expression and recognition of oestrous, increasing conception rate to artificial insemination, improving energy balance in early lactation, identifying management factors affecting the welfare and longevity of cows, identifying strategies to control milk somatic cell counts and improving the functionality of dairy products through dairy cow nutrition.

A comprehensive, integrated programme of collaborative research is currently being undertaken by DEFRA in support of the dairy industry.

### Common Agricultural Policy

**Mr Spencer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the farming industry and other interested parties on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. [3064]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA Ministers and officials meet regularly with farming and environmental groups, as well as other interested parties, the devolved administrations and other EU member states, to discuss reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

### Departmental Members' Interests

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence with the Permanent Secretary of her Department in respect of her private interests since her appointment. [3348]

**Mrs Spelman:** In accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, the Government are committed to publishing Ministers' relevant interests twice yearly. The list will be published in due course. In the meantime, I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

### Food: Origin Marking

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had at EU level on country-of-origin food labelling. [3626]

**Mr Paice:** Ongoing discussions in Europe on the new EU food labelling regulation include origin labelling.

The Government support the need for clear and accurate origin labelling as set out in the Government Programme, and will be working with the food industry, retailers and others achieve this.

### Food: Procurement

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to promote the procurement of food from sustainable and ethical sources in the public sector. [3129]

**Mr Paice:** The procurement of food in the public sector is an area where the coalition Government are looking for progress, both in terms of efficiencies and sustainability. The public sector must lead by example on this, and DEFRA is looking into how this can be achieved.

DEFRA is taking forward the commitment in the Coalition Agreement to ensure that food procured by Government Departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meets British standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall cost.

### Game: Animal Welfare

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future regulation of the use of battery cages to keep gamebirds. [2764]

**Mr Paice:** The welfare of game birds reared for sporting purposes is covered by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. We have no plans to introduce further legislation to cover game birds.

The previous code of practice for the welfare of game birds was withdrawn from Parliament on 27 May because we did not consider that it was sufficiently based on scientific evidence. We understand that there are concerns on the use of barren cages to house breeding game birds. We are now amending the code in consultation with members of the working group that drafted the first version. This will be laid before Parliament for approval once the amendments have been agreed.

### Hill Farming: Regulation

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish her proposals on a new risk-based approach to regulation for hill farmers. [2896]

**Mr Paice:** The Government announced, on 9 June, a new industry-led task force on farming regulation. It is chaired by Richard Macdonald, former director-general of the National Farmers Union, and is charged with identifying ways to reduce the regulatory burden. It will provide advice on how best to achieve a risk-based system of regulation in the future. The task force will make its initial recommendations by early 2011. To provide additional support for hill farmers, we will explore the scope to add to the funding provided by the Uplands Entry Level Stewardship Scheme through changes to the arrangements, under both pillar 1 and pillar 2, of the common agricultural policy, all of which are likely to require EU agreement.

### Incinerators: Health Hazards

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether she plans to bring forward a protocol for assessing the toxicity of soil contaminated by incinerator bottom ash; [3263]

(2) if she will publish the adopted sampling protocol for assessing the ectoxocity of incinerator bottom ash; [3264]

(3) if she will ensure that the adopted protocol for sampling incinerator bottom ash to assess ecotoxicity will require representative sampling; [3265]

(4) when her Department began its discussions with the Environmental Services Association on sampling procedures for H14 ecotoxicity of incinerator bottom ash; and what the outcomes were of those discussions; [3266]

(5) if she will take steps to ensure that incinerator bottom ash which is ecotoxic or hazardous is appropriately classified and sent to hazardous landfill; [3267]

(6) when she plans to publish a protocol for the sampling of incinerator bottom ash. [3268]

**Richard Benyon:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA) has been developing the sampling protocol for assessing the ecotoxicity of incinerator bottom ash (IBA) for some time. It had been expected to be published earlier this year. The ESA will publish the document once it is completed to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency. The sampling protocol being prepared by ESA is based on representative sampling. The Environment Agency is not aware of any examples of soil contamination by IBA.

It is the responsibility of any waste holder to ensure that the waste is correctly classified and managed accordingly. Any waste identified as hazardous should be managed in accordance with the relevant waste legislation to protect human health and the environment. This may include appropriate treatment and recovery, or controlled landfill. It is the role of the Environment Agency to enforce the waste legislation.

### Uplands

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications for her Department's policy of the recent Commission for Rural Communities report on upland areas of England. [3629]

**Richard Benyon:** We recognise the significance of the uplands, and are grateful to the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) for their contribution to this debate. The CRC's report covers a wide range of issues including farming, environmental stewardship, CAP reform, and rural services, and we shall be considering these carefully within DEFRA as well as in other Departments. As the CRC itself recognises, many of the issues raised in this report are not unique to the uplands, and reflect broader issues faced by all rural communities, including low-land and coastal communities.

### Whales: Conservation

**Mrs Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has made to her Japanese counterpart on allegations that crews of Japanese whalers undertaking secretive whaling are appropriating whale meat for commercial sale; and if she will make a statement. [3313]

**Richard Benyon:** It is up to Japan to regulate its whaling industry. I cannot comment on a potential criminal investigation in another country. We remain of the view that Japan's large-scale killing of whales, under the guise of 'scientific' research, is unnecessary and should stop.

**Mrs Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she has taken to express to her Japanese counterpart the Government's policy to the resumption of commercial whaling by Japan; and if she will make a statement. [3314]

**Richard Benyon:** I attended the 62nd annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to express the UK Government's opposition to Japan's continued whaling.

We will continue to make our position known to Japan at every appropriate opportunity and argue that Japanese whaling operations undermine the credibility of the IWC as an effective organisation for the conservation of cetaceans world-wide.

## TREASURY

### Child Trust Fund: Ashton-in-Makerfield

**Yvonne Fovargue:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in Makerfield constituency have received payments from the Child Trust Fund since its inception; and what steps he plans to take in respect of stakeholder accounts into which a child's parents or guardians have not paid a child trust fund voucher within one year of its issue. [3141]

**Mr Hoban:** Statistical Information about Child Trust Funds is published on HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

The Government currently send a voucher to the parents or guardians of all eligible children so they can start a Child Trust Fund for their child. If the voucher is not used by its expiry date then HM Revenue and Customs opens an account on the child's behalf.

On 24 May 2010 the Chancellor announced that the Government intend to reduce and then stop Government payments to Child Trust Fund accounts. More detail on the announcement can be read at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/chancellors-statement/ctf-announce-qa.pdf

The 24 May announcement does not affect what happens where a child's parents or guardians have not used the voucher by its expiry date. HM Revenue and Customs will continue to open accounts for these children where vouchers have been issued.

### Child Trust Fund: Harrow

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people living in *(a)* Harrow West constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Harrow have a child trust fund. [3134]

**Mr Hoban:** Statistical information about Child Trust Funds is published on HM Revenue and Customs' website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

### Debts: Developing Countries

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to assess the effectiveness of operation of the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [2316]

**Mr Hoban:** The Coalition Programme for Government stated "We will review what action can be taken against 'vulture funds'." The Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010 passed through Parliament in April and will mean that UK courts of law will no longer be used to pursue excessive claims against some of the poorest countries on their historic debts, ensuring that resources are available to tackle poverty. The sunset clause attached to this legislation requires that the Government review within a year whether or not to extend the Act.

The Government are committed to ensuring that countries receive the full benefit of debt relief from all their creditors—bilateral and commercial. We support the World Bank's debt reduction facility that enables countries to buy back their commercial debt at a deep discount with donor support. We are also supporting the recently founded African legal support facility that provides legal advice to countries facing litigation.

### Trade Unions

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to consult trade unions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies on cost reduction plans. [606]

**Justine Greening:** The Government published its proposals for the spending review on 9 June: 'The Spending Review Framework' (Cm 7872). As part of this, the Government will consult at the sectoral level, to ensure that all issues are properly considered and priorities balanced against each other. Departments, including HM Treasury, will be asked to do this over the summer to inform the spending review.

Officials from HM Treasury hold regular meetings with their recognised trade unions, and would consult them on any changes to terms and conditions of service.

As neither the Asset Protection Agency nor the UK Debt Management Office currently recognises a trade union, those bodies intend to consult staff directly on any changes to terms and conditions of service arising from pay or pension reductions as a contribution to the Government's deficit reduction plans.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question 295, on departmental official vehicles, tabled on 25 May 2010. [3845]

**Justine Greening:** The Treasury apologises for the delay in replying to the hon. Member and hopes to be in a position to reply shortly.

## JUSTICE

### Crime

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the new mechanism to prevent the proliferation of unnecessary new criminal offences. [3819]

**Mr Blunt:** This Government are committed to ensuring that all new criminal offences are carefully examined to ensure that they are only added to the statute book where it is truly necessary. We are currently considering the detail as to how this mechanism will operate in practice.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent staff at each Civil Service grade are employed in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [117]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I am supported by a private office, which I inherited from my predecessor, of 12 full-time staff; one member of the senior civil service (pay band 1); and three staff at band A, three members of the fast stream, one band B, three staff at band C and one staff member at band D.

Each of the three junior Ministers in the Ministry of Justice are supported by a private office of one band A member of staff, two either from the fast stream, band C or an equivalent grade, and one band D.

The Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice reports jointly to me and to the Home Secretary. Private office support to him is supplied by the Home Office.

The pay scales for each of these grades is as follows: SCS (pay band 1): £58,200 to £117,800; band A: £47,228 to £66,965; band B: £33,835 to £44,300; band C: £27,825 to £35,704; band D: £22,755 to £28,000.

### Harassment: Armed Forces

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to make it an offence verbally to abuse a uniformed member of the armed forces. [3822]

**Mr Blunt:** The Government are fully committed to fostering respect and support for our armed forces, in line with the Military Covenant. We deplore any form of verbal abuse of members of the armed services. However it would be a major step to make verbal abuse an offence where it does not involve harassment or violence or other criminal acts and have sufficient confidence in our armed forces that they need no such special protection. We therefore have no current plans to introduce such an offence.

### Judges: North East

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of providing accommodation to district judges in the North East region in the pursuit of their duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [3507]

**Mr Djanogly:** There are 84 district judges in the HMCS north east region (which includes Yorkshire and the Humber). 66 are based in the county courts and there are 18 district judges in the magistrates courts who are termed district judges (magistrates courts).

The district judges are accommodated in the relevant courthouses. As such, there is no additional cost incurred in providing accommodation to the district judges to carry out their duties, over and above the running expenses of the courts themselves. The running costs of the court buildings are not apportioned to individual members of the judiciary.

In 2009-10 (the last period for which figures are available), £903 was spent on overnight accommodation costs for district judges sitting in the civil courts in the north east. The chief magistrate's office incurred costs of £1,272.55 in the period from July 2009 to March 2010 (the period for which costs are available) on overnight accommodation costs for district judges (magistrates courts) in carrying out their duties. Of this sum, £765.01 related to prison adjudications.

In response to increasing work load and other factors, from time to time court accommodation is extended. The last period for which figures are available is for the financial year 2009-10. In that period, a dedicated family hearing centre was established within the Bradford combined court centre. As part of that scheme, a sum of £3,500 was expended in the creation of a retiring/meeting room for district judges (the overall cost of the scheme was £187,500). At York county court, additional district judge chambers were created within the existing court building at a cost of £83,020.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what accommodation is available to district judges in the North East region. [3508]

**Mr Djanogly:** There are 84 District Judges in the county courts in the HMCS North East Region (which includes Yorkshire and the Humber). They are accommodated in the courts where they carry out their duties. District Judges in the civil courts usually conduct their duties in Chambers but, on occasions, will sit in open court.

There are 18 District Judges in the magistrates courts in the HMCS North East Region. They are also accommodated in the courthouses where they carry out their duties. The vast majority of their duties will be carried out in open court in the courtroom. They will normally be provided with an office where they may undertake more confidential work such as considering applications for search warrants. Should any overnight accommodation be needed then District Judges will use commercial hotel accommodation for which they are entitled to claim reimbursement.

### Legal Aid Scheme

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many independent social workers are owed payment by the Legal Services Commission for work carried out in financial year 2009-10; and how much is owed on average. [3081]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Legal Services Commission does not pay independent social workers directly. They are engaged by solicitors who can claim the cost as a disbursement on account. This means that the cost can be claimed at the time it is incurred rather than waiting for conclusion of a case. There is no record of the number or value of payments for independent social workers as the Legal Services Commission does not record details of individual disbursement payments.

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much legal aid remains unpaid by the Legal Services Commission for work carried out in financial year 2009-10. [3082]

**Mr Djanogly:** It is not possible to give a precise answer to this question. At any one time the Legal Services Commission (LSC) has liabilities to legal service providers of around £900 million for work that has not yet been billed. These liabilities include work done on cases lasting a number of years, not just over the most recent financial period. The LSC's financial statements for 2009-10 are currently in preparation and the liabilities for work undertaken to 31 March 2010 will be identified and published in the LSC annual report and accounts 2009-10.

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government plans to make an assessment of the effects on the legal aid budget of provision of legal aid in respect of cases of criminal offences created in legislation enacted between 1997 and 2010. [3515]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Government have no plans to undertake an assessment of the effect on the legal aid budget of criminal offences created in legislation enacted during the period 1997 and 2010.

However, the Government are conducting a review of existing criminal offences to identify those which serve no useful purpose and should be repealed in line with the commitment to roll back state intrusion. The Justice Secretary also intends to make a statement on reform of legal aid shortly.

Since 2005-06, Government Departments have been expected to carry out a legal aid impact test on those policies that are likely to impact on the legal aid fund. Since April 2005, a total of £28.8 million has been transferred to the legal aid fund from other Government Departments on the basis of estimates agreed between Departments of the cost of new policies. Some legislation may have an impact on both the criminal and civil legal aid fund. It is not therefore possible to identify how much of the transfer relates solely to criminal offences.

### Prisoners' Release: Reoffenders

**John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners on day release from category C prisons were charged with offences in each of the last two years for which figures are available. [3224]

**Mr Blunt:** The following table shows the number of prisoners released on temporary licence (ROTL) of any kind from Category C prisons in the past two years who were recorded as charged with offences committed whilst so released.

| | *Number of offenders* |
|---|---|
| 2008 | 8 |
| 2009 | 6 |

The figures in this table have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. These figures may change should any further offences relating to this period be identified and reported to NOMS.

In 2008 the total number of recorded ROTL failures, which includes any breach of the licence and not just offending, was small in relation to the number of licences granted. Of the 439,294 ROTL licences granted only 266 failures were reported. The published statistics can be found using the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

**John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rate for prisoners released from *(a)* each category of prison and *(b)* young offender institutions were in the latest period for which figures are available. [3225]

**Mr Blunt:** Reoffending data by category of prison or by individual establishment are not currently produced. The Ministry of Justice is currently undertaking work to investigate whether meaningful data on the reoffending of former prisoners from individual institutions can be produced. It is our intention to publish some findings from this ongoing work in November 2010.

The available data on reoffending following a custodial sentence are included as follows.

Table 1 shows the actual rate of reoffending and frequency of reoffending for adults released from custody from the 2008 cohort, which is the latest period for which data are available.

*Table 1: Reoffending rates for adult offenders released from custody in the first quarter of 2008*

| | *Adults released from custody* |
|---|---|
| Number of offenders | 16,099 |
| Actual reoffending rate | 49.4 |
| Number of offences per 100 offenders | 230.9 |

Juvenile reoffending covers offenders aged 17 and under. A release from custody could be from a Secure Training Centre, a Secure Children's Home or a Young Offender Institution. Data are not broken down by type of release establishment or by individual establishment.

Table 2 shows the actual rate of reoffending and frequency of reoffending for juveniles released from custody from the 2008 cohort.

*Table 2: Reoffending rates for juvenile offenders released from custody in the first quarter of 2008*

| | *Juveniles released from custody* |
|---|---|
| Number of offenders | 816 |
| Actual reoffending rate | 74.3 |
| Number of offences per 100 offenders | 342.5 |

Further information on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Further information on juvenile reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm

### Prisons: Drugs

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to prevent the use of drugs among the prison population in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [3716]

**Mr Blunt:** The 2008-11 National Offender Management Service (NOMS) drug strategy has three key elements for prisons that interlink to reduce drug related offending and address individual need:

reducing supply, through security measures and drug testing programmes;

reducing demand, through targeted interventions for low, moderate and severe drug-misusers; and

establishing effective through-care links to ensure continuity of treatment post-release in order to safeguard the gains made in custody.

In early 2008 the then director general of NOMS commissioned David Blakey, former HM Inspector of Constabulary, to report on the effectiveness of the service's drug supply reduction work. His review 'Disrupting the Supply of Illicit Drugs into Prisons' was published in July 2008 and made 10 recommendations, all of which were accepted. Progress has been made in implementing them. This includes:

instructing every prison to nominate a senior manager responsible for co-ordinating delivery of the local drug strategy at the prison;

publishing a revised good practice guide to assist prisons in tackling drug supply routes and a new guide on tackling mobile phones;

strengthening our relationship with Home Office Scientific Development Branch; and

working more closely with law enforcement agencies.

NOMS has in place a drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's Models of Care, to address the needs of drug misusing prisoners. The interventions available are designed to meet the needs of low, moderate and severe drug misusers—irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity.

Considerable improvements have been made in clinical drug treatment in prisons, in particular through the introduction of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS)—a treatment system, based on evidence, providing improved clinical management including prescribing and psychosocial interventions via multidisciplinary teams, particularly in the first 28 days of prison and also links with care and treatment services in the community.

This Government believe that more can be done to cut drug related reoffending by overhauling the system of rehabilitation. We are considering how sentencing and treatment for drug use can help offenders to come off drugs once and for all. This includes the exploration of alternative secure treatment-based accommodation.

### Prisons: Education

**John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* educational and *(b)* vocational courses were not completed as a result of inter-prison moves in the latest period for which figures are available. [3236]

**Mr Blunt:** Data relating to the number of prisoners whose learning has been interrupted or stopped due to inter prison moves are not held centrally and it would not be possible to provide an answer without incurring a disproportionate cost.

The National Offender Management Service work with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills as well as the Skills Funding Agency to minimise the effect of inter-prison moves on educational attainment. Since August 2009 a core curriculum has been introduced in all prisons to minimise the potential affect of such moves. In addition there is a requirement to make use of a new data exchange system to ensure information on prisoners' educational aims and achievements are available to the receiving prison on transfer.

### Prisons: Religion

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of people who have converted to *(a)* Islam, *(b)* Christianity, *(c)* Buddhism, *(d)* Hinduism, *(e)* Judaism and *(f)* Sikhism whilst in prison in the last five years. [3093]

**Mr Blunt:** The data held centrally, as recorded on the prison IT system, only include information on prisoners' current declared religion, not any previously declared religion. Therefore, it is not possible to identify how many prisoners have changed their religion while in prison.

### Rape

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* trials and *(c)* convictions for rape there were in (i) Hartlepool constituency, (ii) the North East and (iii) England in each of the last 10 years. [3442]

**Mr Blunt:** The number of defendants proceeded against for rape (including attempted rape) and found guilty at all courts in the North East Government office region (GOR) and England 1999 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in the table.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Data are given in the table for Cleveland police force area in which the Hartlepool constituency is located.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in October 2010.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and sexual offences. From these centrally reported data it is not possible to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for rape[1, 2], North East Government office region (GOR), England, 1999 to 2008[3, 4]*

| | 1999 | | 2000 | | 2001 | | 2002 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty |
| North East (GOR) | 159 | 41 | 152 | 30 | 138 | 30 | 138 | 41 |
| *which is comprised of the following police force areas:* | | | | | | | | |
| Cleveland | 17 | 12 | 18 | 8 | 21 | 5 | 35 | 11 |
| Durham | 29 | 6 | 40 | 3 | 38 | 3 | 39 | 5 |
| Northumbria | 113 | 23 | 94 | 19 | 79 | 22 | 64 | 25 |
| England | 1,993 | 605 | 1,907 | 557 | 2,480 | 547 | 2,740 | 607 |

| | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty | Proceeded against | Found guilty |
| North East (GOR) | 144 | 32 | 120 | 42 | 146 | 32 |

| | *2003* | | *2004* | | *2005* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| which is comprised of the following police force areas: | | | | | | |
| Cleveland | 37 | 9 | 26 | 10 | 48 | 9 |
| Durham | 25 | 1 | 35 | 9 | 36 | 8 |
| Northumbria | 82 | 22 | 59 | 23 | 62 | 15 |
| England | 2,641 | 634 | 2,491 | 707 | 2,682 | 761 |

| | *2006* | | *2007* | | *2008* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* |
| North East (GOR) | 141 | 50 | 117 | 51 | 122 | 47 |
| *which is comprised of the following police force areas:* | | | | | | |
| Cleveland | 41 | 18 | 35 | 23 | 34 | 10 |
| Durham | 36 | 7 | 28 | 5 | 32 | 18 |
| Northumbria | 64 | 25 | 54 | 23 | 56 | 19 |
| England | 2,431 | 832 | 2,225 | 823 | 2,254 | 878 |

[1] Includes: Rape and attempted rape of a female or male.

[2] Includes: Conspiracies, charges of participation in offences as accessories after the fact and charges of participation in offences by impeding the apprehension or prosecution of the offender.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

## Rape: Cheshire

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of contested prosecutions for rape in Cheshire police force area resulted in a conviction in each of the last five years. [3084]

**Mr Blunt:** The proportion of defendants tried at the Crown Court in the Chester police force area for rape (including attempted), who pleaded not guilty and who were found guilty, from 2004 to 2008 (latest available) is given in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in October 2010.

*Number of defendants tried at the Crown Court for rape[1] [2] who pleaded not guilty, who were found guilty of rape, Cheshire police force area 2004 to 2008[3] [4]*

| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total tried who pleaded not guilty | 22 | 26 | 18 | 17 | 20 |
| Found guilty | 10 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 12 |
| Conviction rate (%)[5] | 45 | 15 | 28 | 29 | 60 |

[1] Includes: Rape and attempted rape of a female or male.

[2] Includes: Conspiracies, charges of participation in offences as accessories after the fact and charges of participation in offences by impeding the apprehension or prosecution of the offender.

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] Proportion of defendants tried who pleaded not guilty at the Crown Court who were found guilty.

*Note:*
As can be seen in the table, the conviction rate is based on data totals of less than 100. Conviction rates at this level can be easily affected, either up or down, by relatively minor changes in the base data used.

*Source:*
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

## Rape: Victim Support Schemes

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects on the provision of services by independent third sector rape crisis organisations of *(a)* one, *(b)* three, *(c)* five and *(d)* eight year funding cycles; and if he will ensure provision of long-term sustainable funding for such organisations. [3576]

**Mr Blunt:** The Government have made a commitment to put funding arrangements for rape crisis centres on a stable, long-term footing.

The Government Equalities Office has commissioned an independent evaluation of the grant funding it allocated to rape crisis centres in 2008-09 and 2009-10. It has also commissioned independent research on the stability and sustainability of voluntary-sector organisations that support female victims of violence, including sexual violence. The findings of these studies, which will inform an assessment of the various funding models, will be published in due course.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by what means funding will be provided for independent third sector rape crisis organisations from April 2011. [3577]

**Mr Blunt:** The Government recognise the crucial support that rape crisis centres provide to victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence. The Coalition Agreement included a commitment to give such centres stable, long-term funding, and this commitment remains a priority for the Government. Work to develop a funding model will be carried out in conjunction with the comprehensive spending review. No final decisions will be made until the autumn, when the results of the spending review are announced.

### Rape: Warrington

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for rape there were in Warrington in each of the last five years. [3828]

**Mr Blunt:** Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Data are given in the table for Cheshire police force area 2004 to 2008 (latest available) in which the Warrington constituency is located.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in October 2010.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for rape[1] [2] Cheshire police force area 2004 to 2008[3] [4]*

| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Proceeded against | 37 | 45 | 36 | 29 | 33 |
| Found guilty | 13 | 12 | 21 | 13 | 27 |

[1] Includes: rape and attempted rape of a female or male.

[2] Includes: conspiracies, charges of participation in offences as accessories after the fact and charges of participation in offences by impeding the apprehension or prosecution of the offender.

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented ace accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

### Victim Support Schemes: Warrington

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department has allocated to victim support organisations in Warrington in the latest period for which figures are available. [3283]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice provided funding of £36.2 million to Victim Support in 2009-10 to support their work across England and Wales. Victim Support spend on support to victims and witnesses in Warrington for this period was £107,993.

In the financial year 2010-11, the Ministry of Justice and the Government Equalities Office awarded the Rape and Sexual Assault Support Centre (Cheshire and Merseyside) a grant of £41,269. This organisation provides support to victims of rape and sexual violence across the region.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Domestic Violence

1. **Mrs Moon:** To ask the Attorney-General what steps he plans to take to increase the rate of prosecution in cases of domestic violence. [3377]

**The Solicitor-General:** I refer the hon. Member to the oral answer I provided to the question from the hon. Member for Gateshead (Ian Mearns) earlier today.

### Rape Defendants: Anonymity

9. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Attorney-General what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the effect on the Crown Prosecution Service of the Government's proposals to extend anonymity to defendants in rape cases. [3385]

10. **Caroline Flint:** To ask the Attorney-General what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the effect on the Crown Prosecution Service of the Government's proposals to extend anonymity to defendants in rape cases. [3386]

**The Solicitor-General:** I have discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues. Rape is a crime of the utmost seriousness and a careful analysis of the options and implications will be undertaken.

### Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Attorney General if he will undertake a review of the effectiveness of prosecution policy in cases involving human trafficking. [3572]

**The Solicitor-General:** I have no plans to review the effectiveness of prosecution policy in human trafficking cases.

The Crown Prosecution Service has comprehensive guidance for prosecutors to ensure that decisions in human trafficking cases are taken in line with the principles in the Code for Crown Prosecutors, taking account of the particular factors which are relevant in human trafficking cases. However, if my hon. Friend has any specific concerns I invite him to write to me.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions: Departmental Coordination

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much pooled funding is available to support cross-departmental co-operation on building a low carbon economy. [2331]

**Gregory Barker:** While there is no pooled funding specifically to support cross-departmental co-operation, departments work together closely on policies to support the move to a low carbon economy. For example, the low carbon element of the Strategic Investment Fund—which provides targeted support for the development of a number of key low carbon sectors—is managed jointly by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). A high-level group of senior officials has also recently been established to promote more effective cross departmental working on building a low carbon economy.

### Departmental Grants

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what capital grant schemes his Department is responsible. [1617]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department is responsible for the following capital grant schemes:

Warm Front
Low Carbon Buildings Programme
Boiler Scrappage Scheme
Anaerobic Digestion Demonstration Programme
Bioenergy Capital Grants Scheme
Bioenergy Infrastructure Scheme
Carbon Abatement Technologies (CAT) Demonstration Programme
Carbon Trust Applied Research Grants
Central Government Low Carbon Technology Programme
Deep Geothermal Challenge Fund
Home Energy Pay As You Save Programme
Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Demonstration Programme
Low Carbon Communities Challenge
Marine Renewables Deployment Fund
Marine Renewables Proving Fund
Off-shore Wind Demonstrators
Smart Grid Demonstration Fund

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* front-line and *(b)* other staff were employed by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in the latest year for which figures are available; and what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of employing staff of each type in his Department. [534]

**Gregory Barker:** The numbers of staff employed by the Department in 2009-10 (subject to audit) are:

55 full-time equivalent front line staff at a cost of £4 million
1,003 full-time equivalent other staff at a cost of £5 8 million.

The Department has no agencies.

### Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of payments by his Department to solicitors and claims handlers under the coal health compensation scheme. [3434]

**Charles Hendry:** The total amount the Department has paid claimants' representatives under the coal health compensation schemes for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and vibration white finger (VWF) is shown in the following table as at 13 June 2010:

| *Claim type* | *Claimants representatives costs* |
|---|---|
| COPD | £1.028 billion |
| VWF | £187.2 million |
| Overall total | c.£1.215 billion |

### River Severn: Tidal Power

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for harnessing energy from the Severn estuary; [3566]

(2) when he expects the Severn Tidal feasibility study to report. [3581]

**Gregory Barker:** We are currently considering the recommendations from the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study and expect to report our conclusions shortly.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Gender Recognition: Human Rights

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the recommendations for Council of Europe member states on human rights and gender identity made by the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights on 29 July 2009; and if she will make a statement. [3575]

**Lynne Featherstone:** This Government are committed to supporting transgender equality. On 18 June the Prime Minister launched Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality, which sets out a clear programme of work to combat homophobia and transphobia. In it we give a clear commitment to work with transgender groups to develop a Government Action Plan on Transgender Equality, which we will publish in 2011.

As part of the growing body of work on transgender rights, the Government believe the issue paper published by the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights and gender identity is a valuable contribution to the discussion on transgender rights in Europe. We also welcome the paper's recognition of the UK's work on equality for transsexual people as an exemplar to other member states. We will bear the Commissioner's recommendations in mind as we develop our Action Plan on Transgender Equality.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Gulf of Mexico: Oil

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Prime Minister whether he has had discussions with the *(a)* directors and *(b)* chief executive of BP on the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico. [3773]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my official spokesman on 16 June 2010. A transcript is available on the No 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-briefings/2010/06/afernoon-press-briefing-from-16-june-2010-51959

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Baron:** To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to reply to the letter to his predecessor of 20 April 2010 from the hon. Member for Billericay on Visteon. [3187]

**The Prime Minister:** My hon. Friend is resending the letter which was sent prior to the election and I will happily answer.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### 101 Calls

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to develop a national 101 non-emergency telephone number; and if she will make a statement. [2843]

**Nick Herbert:** The '101' telephone number is currently used as a non-emergency number for reporting crime and anti-social behaviour in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Sheffield and across Wales. The Government recognises the importance of easy access to public services and will consider options for the future of the '101' telephone number in due course.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many charges of *(a)* all individuals and *(b)* individuals under the age of 18 years relating to alcohol-related anti-social behaviour were made (i) nationally, (ii) in the East Midlands and (iii) in Leicester in each of the last five years. [2571]

**Nick Herbert:** The court proceedings database does not contain information on charging.

### Animal Experiments

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the prohibition on testing of household products on animals to come into force; and if she will make a statement. [3177]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government are committed to ending the testing of household products on animals. Work is under way to define the range of products affected and to determine how this can best be achieved. I am not yet in a position to confirm when such testing will be finally brought to an end, but hope to be able to do so shortly.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Young People

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been issued *(a)* in total and *(b)* to individuals under the age of 18 years (i) nationally, (ii) in the East Midlands and (iii) in Leicester in each of the last five years. [2572]

**Nick Herbert:** The total number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued at all courts in England and Wales, the East Midlands Government Office Region and the Leicestershire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, in each year between 2003 and 2007 (latest available) broken down by age group, is shown in the table. The next set of data is to be published shortly.

ASBO data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice are not compiled below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

*The number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued all courts[1] in England and Wales, the East Midlands Government Office Region (GOR)[2] and the Leicestershire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, by age group[3], 2003-07*

| | Area | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | England and Wales | | | | East Midlands GOR | | | | Leicestershire CJS area | | | |
| | 10 to 17 | 18+ | n/k[3] | All ages | 10 to 17 | 18+ | n/k[3] | All ages | 10 to 17 | 18+ | n/k[3] | All ages |
| 2003 | 628 | 713 | 8 | 1,349 | 28 | 31 | 1 | 60 | 8 | 7 | — | 15 |
| 2004 | 1,340 | 2,086 | 53 | 3,479 | 67 | 162 | 4 | 233 | 12 | 32 | 1 | 45 |
| 2005 | 1,581 | 2,469 | 72 | 4,122 | 131 | 171 | 7 | 309 | 29 | 40 | 2 | 71 |
| 2006 | 1,053 | 1,625 | 27 | 2,705 | 70 | 109 | 4 | 183 | 10 | 29 | 3 | 42 |
| 2007 | 920 | 1,362 | 17 | 2,299 | 65 | 103 | — | 168 | 12 | 18 | — | 30 |

[1] Includes ASBOs issued on application by magistrates courts acting in their civil capacity and county courts, which became available on 1 April 1999 and ASBOs made following conviction for a relevant criminal offence at the Crown Court and at magistrates courts (acting in their criminal capacity), which became available on 2 December 2002.

[2] The East Midlands Government Office Region (GOR) is comprised of the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice System areas.

[3] n/k indicates that the defendants' ages were not reported to the Ministry of Justice.

*Notes:*

1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
2. Previously issued data have been revised.

*Source:*

Prepared by Justice Statistics Analytical Services

### Association of Chief Police Officers

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the future structure, role and powers of the Association of Chief Police Officers. [2853]

**Nick Herbert:** The Government are looking at all aspects of policing as part of their commitment to protecting the public and delivering policing in the most efficient way. This will include looking at the contribution made by the Association of Chief Police Officers. No decisions have yet been taken on its future role and we are consulting fully with the ACPO leadership.

### Asylum: Families

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for family reunion were made by dependants of refugees and people granted humanitarian protection in the UK under Part 11 of the immigration rules in each of the last five years; and how many of those applications were *(a)* granted, *(b)* refused and *(c)* granted on appeal in each such year. [3517]

**Damian Green:** The number of entry clearance applications in the family reunion category, from dependants of those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection, which were (a) received (b) approved (c) refused and (d) approved following a successful appeal, is shown in the following table:

| | *Applications* | *Issued* | *Refused* | *Issued after appeal* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 7,846 | 7,740 | 1,052 | 7 |
| 2006 | 6,092 | 5,283 | 877 | 25 |
| 2007 | 5,247 | 4,497 | 1,084 | 35 |
| 2008 | 5,577 | 3,632 | 1,364 | 44 |
| 2009 | 5,983 | 4,212 | 2,306 | 56 |

*Source:*
Central Reference System
Date: 17 June 2010
Management Information, as such it has not been quality assured.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether dependants of refugees and people granted humanitarian protection in the UK applying for family reunion under Part 11 of the immigration rules will be subject to the new English language requirement announced on 9 June 2010. [3518]

**Damian Green:** On 9 June 2010, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a new language requirement for those seeking entry to the UK as either a spouse or civil partner, fiancé or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or someone who is present and settled in the UK.

The new language requirement will not apply to dependants of refugees and people granted humanitarian protection in the UK applying for family reunion under Part 11 of the immigration rules.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether dependants of refugees and people granted humanitarian protection in the UK applying for family reunion under Part 11 of the immigration rules will be included in the Government's proposal to introduce an annual limit on the numbers of non-EU migrants. [3519]

**Damian Green:** The annual limit will apply only to non-EU economic migrants admitted into the UK to live and work. There are no plans to apply the limit to dependants of refugees and people granted humanitarian protection in the UK applying for family reunion under Part 11 of the immigration rules.

### British Nationality: War Crimes

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what offences had been committed by the 21 people from Sri Lanka refused UK citizenship in 2008 and 2009 on the grounds of involvement in war crimes; [3713]

(2) what offences had been committed by the 13 people from Afghanistan refused UK citizenship in 2008 and 2009 on the grounds of involvement in war crimes; [3714]

(3) what offences were committed by the 13 people from Iraq refused UK citizenship in 2008 and 2009 on the grounds of involvement in war crimes. [3715]

**Damian Green:** A person may be refused citizenship if they are unable to satisfy the requirement to be of good character. There are a variety of considerations taken into account when assessing an applicant's character for the purposes of naturalisation. If an applicant has been associated with an organisation known to have been involved in the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide, this would cast doubt on their character and their application would be refused. This does not necessarily mean that these individuals have been convicted of an offence, simply that their behaviour or associations casts doubt on their good character.

### Community Policing

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to consult on accountability of community safety partnerships as outlined in the Safer, Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy. [2872]

**Nick Herbert:** The programme set out in the coalition agreement explains our approach to crime and policing, including making the police more accountable to the public through various means including the introduction of directly elected individuals. We are considering these proposals and any consideration of consultation on strengthening the accountability of community safety partnerships will need to be considered alongside them. We will involve key partners in taking this forward.

### Community Policing: Wales

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she next expects to meet Welsh Assembly Government Ministers to discuss progress on the Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy. [2844]

**Nick Herbert:** I will be meeting in due course with Ministers from the devolved Administrations about policing and criminal justice system reform.

### Crime

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment the Government has made of the relative accuracy of each of the methods used to measure levels of crime. [1603]

**Mrs May** *[holding answer 14 June 2010]*: The next annual statistical bulletin on crime is pre-announced to be published by the Home Office on 15 July 2010, and as in previous years will include an assessment of the accuracy of sources of information on crime.

The UK Statistics Authority published on 24 May its assessment report Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics: England and Wales which contains six recommendations. This included calling for the creation of "a free-standing guide that explains the strengths and limitations of the different types of crime data". The various sets of statistics are based on different data sources and coverage (in other words they do not measure the same things) and involve collection methods which have evolved over the years making comparisons difficult.

The public must have full, accurate and independently produced information if we are to restore confidence in the statistics and drive effective action to tackle crime. We are currently reviewing how crime statistics should be collected and published in future and will make further announcements in due course.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* plasma and *(b)* LCD televisions there are in Ministerial offices in her Department. [392]

**Nick Herbert:** There are six LCD televisions in ministerial offices in the Home Office and eight LCD televisions in their outer offices—the same number as under the previous Government.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 226W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is for staff members employed at each pay band in each ministerial private office in her Department. [3218]

**Nick Herbert:** In the Home Office each grade has its own salary band. The salary bands for those grades of staff employed within each ministerial private office are set out in the following table. Staff may be at any salary point within the pay band quoted for their grade.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Grade 5 (SCS) | 58,200-117,800 |
| Grade 7 | 46,506-57,553 |
| SEO | 33,953-39,537 |
| SIO | 36,452-42,447 |
| HEO(D) | 26,885-33,953 |
| HEO | 26,345-30,989 |
| EO | 21,073-24,789 |
| AO | 16,518-18,657 |

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Ministers in her Department have been issued with *(a)* a Blackberry, *(b)* an iPhone, *(c)* another make of mobile telephone and (d) a personal digital assistant supplied by the Department. [1427]

**Nick Herbert:** Six BlackBerrys and two mobile phones have been issued to Ministers in the Home Office. We do not issue iPhones or personal digital assistants.

### Departmental Official Residences

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any domestic properties in the gift of the Government have been allocated to the use of Ministers in her Department. [1802]

**Nick Herbert:** No Home Ministers in the Home Office have been allocated a residence.

### Departmental Pay

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in bonuses to civil servants in her Department in 2009-10. [2178]

**Nick Herbert:** An element of the overall pay award for the Home Office is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set of meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill and pension costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the senior civil service is based on the recommendations of the independent senior salaries review body.

Non-consolidated end-of-year performance payments made in the 2009-10 financial year (in relation to the 2008-09 performance year) amounted to £5.69 million, (approx 0.69% of the pay bill 2009-10). Up to 0.3% of the pay bill is allocated for non-consolidated special payments to reward exceptional in-year performance. In the 2009-10 financial year this amounted to £1.39 million, less than 0.2% of salary costs.

### Departmental Reviews

**Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Government departments: reviews, what reviews her Department is undertaking; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* timescale of each is. [2591]

**Nick Herbert:** I refer the hon. Member to the previous answer given by the right hon. Member for North West Hampshire (Sir George Young) on 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W. My Department will bring forward detailed information about these reviews in due course.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* documents and *(b)* other information for which (i) her Department and (ii) its associated public bodies are responsible are published or provided in the UK in languages other than English; for what reason each such publication is required to be made available in a language or languages other than English; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the translation work so incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [1774]

**Nick Herbert:** Providing translated information where it will assist the public to access information and provide help and support is always considered when producing publications.

The Welsh Language Act (1993) is complied with when communicating with citizens of Wales.

We are unable to provide information about the number of translated publications or the costs incurred through translation work on the grounds of disproportionate cost.

### Deportation: Offenders

**Mr Bacon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the written ministerial statement of 25 April 2006, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS, on deportation and removal of foreign nationals, how many of the 1,023 foreign national criminals released from prison referred to in the statement are unaccounted for. [3758]

**Damian Green:** I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 16 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 432W.

### Detention Centres: Children

**Mr Spencer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of children detained for immigration purposes in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [3108]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* The requested information is not available. The published statistics on persons detained as at specific dates in 1997 related to asylum applicants only and did not separately identify children.

The latest published statistics show there were 30 people detained solely under Immigration Act powers recorded as being less than 18 years of age as at 31 March 2010. In 2009, 1,065 children entered detention solely under Immigration Act powers; this information was published for the first time in 2009.

This information relating to 2010 is available in tables 3.5 to 3.8 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, January to March 2010 and the information relating to 2009 is available in table 9.2 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, October to December 2009 available in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

I recently announced a review into the detention of children for asylum purposes so it can be brought to an end this summer. We have already ended the overnight detention of children at Dungavel.

### Homicide: Cumbria

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on the composition of the ACPO peer review group on the shooting in Cumbria; what information her Department holds on *(a)* the membership of the panel and *(b)* the date on which the review will be completed; and if she will arrange for the report of the review to be laid before Parliament when published. [2991]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Secretary has discussed with the ACPO President, Sir Hugh Orde, the peer reviews into the tragic events in Cumbria requested by the chief constable of Cumbria Constabulary, Craig Mackey. There will be three peer reviews covering firearms licensing, the firearms response and the firearms tactics and manual. The reviews will be led by the respective ACPO leads for these business areas.

Terms of reference and timescales are currently being agreed. The reports will be made public and I will ensure they are made available to the House.

### Identity Cards

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford have purchased an identity card. [3307]

**Damian Green:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 16 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 434W.

### Marriage: Homosexuality

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to enable gay people to marry. [2117]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Currently, same-sex couples can enter a civil partnership under the Civil Partnership Act 2004 which gives them the opportunity to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. Couples who register their civil partnerships gain vital rights and protections, similar to married couples. Civil partnership registrations are entirely secular in nature and, as with civil marriage, prohibited from taking place on religious premises, or containing any religious language. An amendment made to the Equality Act 2010 removed the express prohibition on civil partnerships taking place on religious premises.

This Government are committed to supporting civil partnerships. This week, the Prime Minister launched Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality, an ambitious programme of work to tackle outdated prejudices and ensure equal chances for everyone, whatever their sexual orientation or gender identity. It contains a commitment to talk to those with a key interest in this issue about what the next stage should be for civil partnerships, including how some religious organisations can allow same-sex couples the opportunity to register their relationship in a religious setting if they wish to do so.

### Members: Correspondence

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 9 June 2010 from the hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle on crime statistics. [3186]

**Mrs May** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* I have replied to the letter in question. I refer you to my letter of 17 June 2010.

### PCSOs: Certificate in Policing

**Mr Hanson:**To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to develop an accreditation scheme for police community support officers under the Safe and Confident Neighbourhood Strategy document of February 2010. [3219]

**Nick Herbert:** The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and Skills for Justice have written to Chief Officers and Force Training Managers announcing the introduction of the new qualification/accreditation for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in England and Wales. The Level 3 Certificate in Policing (Police Community Support Officers) is a non-mandatory and national qualification for PCSOs.

### Police Authorities

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the presumed hours of work are for remunerated *(a)* chairs and *(b)* vice-chairs of police authorities. [2682]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 16 June 2010]:* The Home Office does not set or monitor hours of work for chairs or vice-chairs of police authorities.

### Police: Bureaucracy

**Richard Harrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the annual proportion of time spent by police officers on administrative tasks. [2883]

**Nick Herbert:** Since the election, my ministerial colleagues and I have had several discussions with a range of policing partners on the need to reduce bureaucracy for the police service. The Government are clear that the police should focus on police work not paperwork, and the Home Office is now engaged in a programme of action to deliver this commitment.

The introduction of directly-elected individuals will release police forces from centrally imposed burdens, making the police accountable to the right people—the public they serve. We will reform the performance management framework for policing, to let the police get on with their jobs as professionals.

We will support greater professional responsibility, enabling officers to use their discretion to decide how incidents are dealt with and how crimes are actually recorded and we will take action to return charging decisions for minor offences to police officers. RIPA and PACE processes will be reviewed to see where we can minimise the bureaucracy involved. We also propose to amend the health and safety rules that can prevent police officers from intervening and protecting the public.

We will cut red-tape, and are working to identify those processes that are unnecessarily time-consuming for police officers and support staff. This includes looking at those processes in the wider Criminal Justice System that generate bureaucracy for police officers. We have already announced our intention to scrap the Stop and Search form and we will look at how we can maximise the use of technology to further reduce the paperwork in policing.

**Mr Spencer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the amount of time spent by police officers on paperwork each year. [3110]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* Since the election, my ministerial colleagues and I have had several discussions with a range of policing partners on the need to reduce bureaucracy for the police service. The Government are clear that the police should focus on police work not paperwork, and the Home Office is now engaged in a programme of action to deliver this commitment.

### Police: Essex

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department holds information on the number of *(a)* officials at each grade in Essex Police Authority and *(b)* officers of each rank in Essex police who have left their posts voluntarily other than through redundancy since December 2009. [2790]

**Nick Herbert:** Data since December 2009 are unavailable until headline figures are published on 22 July 2010.

The Home Office does not collect data about officials of the Police Authority.

### Police: Finance

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department plans to provide to each police authority in the next two years; what mechanism is used to determine the allocation of funding to police authorities; what recent assessment she has made of the value for money of expenditure on police authorities; and if she will make a statement. [2788]

**Nick Herbert:** The funding settlement for 2011-12 and 2012-13 will not be decided until after the comprehensive spending review.

Police authorities receive a main grant plus several specific grants from the Home Office. The amount of main grant a police authority receives is based on the needs of its force relative to other forces. This is calculated using the Police Allocation Formula. Police authorities also receive grants for specific purposes such as the neighbourhood policing fund. Details of these can be found in the CIPFA police accounts at:

www.cipfastats.net

The Government are committed to introducing directly elected individuals to hold the police to account; to replace bureaucratic accountability with democratic accountability. This will help ensure that the public have a direct say in how their money is spent so they get the best value from their policing.

### Police: Funding

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the effect on policing of the reduction of her Department's funding allocation for 2010-11; and if she will make a statement. [2929]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]*: Core Government funding to the police will be reduced by £125 million. Each force will have its core Government funding in 2010-11 reduced by the same percentage. This reduction is less than 1 per cent of expected total police spending in 2010-11.

The Government's priority is to cut the budget deficit and get the economy moving again. That means the police will have to bear a fair share of the burden, helped by £100 million of savings already identified for this year on areas including procurement and IT. I am quite clear that this saving can be achieved by driving out wasteful spending, reducing bureaucracy and increasing efficiency in key functions, whilst leaving the frontline of policing strong and secure. The Home Office has protected the frontline by cutting a greater than proportionate share of its own central budget.

In addition to the £125 million, Government funding for counter terrorism policing will be reduced by £10 million. The £10 million savings package is taken from a £5 million reduction in the Metropolitan Police Services' Counter Terrorism Specific Grant and a £5 million reduction in the Counter Terrorism Specific Grant for local and regional counter terrorism capabilities. This was agreed following discussion with senior police officers to ensure that there would be no adverse impact on frontline delivery of CT policing. In 2010-11 there will be £569 million available for counter terrorism policing.

### Police: Sick Leave

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police officers in each police authority were *(a)* reassigned duties and *(b)* retired after a period of more than one year of unpaid sick leave in each of the last 10 years; [3226]

(2) how many police officers in each police authority are on long-term sick leave without pay. [3227]

**Nick Herbert:** The information is not collected centrally.

### Powers of Entry

**Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulations permitting forcible entry without a warrant there were at the end of *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [2535]

**Nick Herbert:** There were 99 regulations made under statutory instrument to allow entry without a warrant at the end of 1997 and 327 regulations by the end of 2007.

Forcible entry is not permitted without a warrant. If an occupier refuses entry a warrant to permit forcible entry would need to be obtained to exercise 81 of the powers introduced between 1997 and 2007 and nine powers that existed before 1997.

### Royal Family: Electronic Surveillance

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to protect the *(a)* electronic and *(b)* telephonic communications of the royal family. [2396]

**Nick Herbert:** It is Home Office policy not to comment on the protective security arrangements for any individuals or groups of people. Disclosure of such information could compromise the integrity of those arrangements and affect the security of the individuals concerned.

### Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of her Department's annual expenditure on administering schemes for the admission of temporary farm workers to the UK. [3344]

**Damian Green:** The total cost of administering the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Scheme (SAWS) in 2009-10 was £123,000.

### Security Guards: Licensing

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for licences as security operatives have been refused a licence by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) on grounds of inadequate command of English in each of the last five years; and what criteria are applied by the SIA in determining whether an applicant has a sufficient command of English. [2832]

**Lynne Featherstone:** An English Language requirement is not a specific Security Industry Authority (SIA) licensing requirement. However, the training and examinations which must be completed to obtain an SIA licence are delivered and assessed in English.

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for licences as security operatives have been refused a licence by the Security Industry Association (SIA) on grounds of conviction for offences committed while juveniles in each of the last five years; what criteria are applied by the SIA when deciding whether such an offence should debar an applicant from being licensed; and whether account is taken of *(a)* youth, *(b)* subsequent clean record and *(c)* successful subsequent career, such as exemplary service in the armed forces. [2833]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Information on numbers of applicants refused a licence by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) based upon juvenile convictions is not held centrally by the SIA and cannot be obtained without disproportionate cost.

The SIA publishes its licensing criteria in "Get Licensed". Section 7 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 requires the licensing criteria to be approved by the Secretary of State. A copy has been placed in the House Library and can be found on the SIA's website at:

http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Documents/licensing/sia_get_licensed.pdf

The SIA carries out a criminal record check which takes into account convictions, warnings, cautions, absolute/conditional discharges, admonishment or charges awaiting trial for offence. The age of applicants at the time of offence is taken into account. Offences committed from the age of 10 up to 12 are considered spent unless they relate to offences that were considered serious, as defined by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Offences committed from the age of 12 up to 15 will be considered spent unless included in a longer list of serious offences set out in "Get Licensed". Offences taken into account are subject to assessment in accordance with the SIA's published criteria.

The SIA also take into account the time since sentence restrictions ended, and subsequent clean record of an applicant. They also consider additional factors in certain cases, inviting applicants to submit mitigating evidence to support their application. Decisions are made on a case by case basis.

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account the Security Industry Association takes of findings of Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks in determining whether an applicant for a licence as a security operative is granted; and what substitute is used for CRB checks in the case of applicants from *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Afghanistan and *(d)* other overseas countries. [2834]

**Lynne Featherstone:** To qualify for a licence all applicants to the Security Industry Authority (SIA) need to pass a criminal record check. The information resulting from Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure is assessed by the SIA in accordance with the licensing criteria set out in the SIA's publication "Get Licensed".

Section 7 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 requires the licensing criteria to be approved by the Secretary of State. A copy has been placed in the House Library and can be found on the SIA's website at:

http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Documents/licensing/sia_get_licensed.pdf

Having a criminal record does not automatically mean that the applicant will not get a licence. If an applicant has any convictions, warnings, cautions, absolute/conditional discharges, admonishments or charges awaiting trial for offences, the SIA will make a decision whether to grant or refuse a licence according to whether the offences are included in the list of offences in "Get Licensed". They will consider the seriousness of an offence, and the date of conviction. They will also consider additional factors in certain cases, inviting applicants to submit mitigating evidence to support their application.

All applicants who have lived overseas for six continuous months or more during the last five years must produce evidence of a criminal record check covering that period from an official source from the country they lived in. An official source will normally mean the Government body that issues criminal record certificates. Further details of how the SIA deals with overseas criminal records can be found on their website at:

http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Pages/Step-By-Step.aspx?page=Pages/licensing-overseas-checks.aspx

The website contains specific guidance on how criminality checks should be obtained from individual countries, including Iraq and Pakistan. For Afghanistan applicants are referred to their embassy in the first instance. If they are unable to obtain an overseas criminal records certificate (OCC) then they may be eligible for the sworn oath process.

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the Security Industry Authority makes donation of a percentage of profits to charity a condition for the awarding of Approved Contract or Status to firms which apply for it. [2836]

**Lynne Featherstone:** Charitable donations are not a requirement to achieve approval under the Security Industry Authority's (SIA's) Approved Contractor Scheme (ACS).

The ACS is a voluntary scheme for private security sector suppliers. To achieve ACS status, companies are independently assessed against a set of operational and performance standards. 'Corporate Social Responsibility' is one of the standards required for ACS approval. An approved contractor is required to demonstrate that it actively manages the impact of its services on society. Individual companies may choose to donate to charity as one of the ways they fulfil this requirement.

Further information about the conditions of the ACS are on the SIA's website at:

http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Pages/acs-intro.aspx

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what machinery the Security Industry Association (SIA) has in place to enable firms which discover that individuals with SIA licences have political allegiances to hostile movements or regimes to report these with a view to the cancellation of such licences. [3123]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The SIA can take a wide range of information into account in considering whether an individual is a fit and proper person to hold a licence. The SIA's published guidance, "Get Licensed", notes that this can include evidence of relevant criminal association or activity that is likely to bring the industry into disrepute.

There are a number of routes through which firms can pass on information relating to SIA licence holders, such as by contacting:

Crimestoppers, with whom the SIA work in close partnership;

The SIA's website, which has an on-line reporting mechanism. This includes a confidentiality policy and specific questions to ensure the information is of the highest quality, and

http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Pages/enforcement-reporting.aspx

The SIA directly or through their contact centre in Liverpool 0844 892 1025; and,

Though the SIA's partners, including the police.

### Special Constables

**Andrew Percy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will encourage police forces in England to make greater use of special constables. [2406]

**Nick Herbert:** The special constabulary is an important and cost effective resource in policing. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is committed to supporting the special constabulary and increasing its numbers across England and Wales. The NPIA created nine regional co-ordinator posts to help police forces increase numbers and improve retention rates within their respective force areas. In particular, they are working in partnership with forces to develop effective marketing and recruitment strategies and to implement the national strategy for the special constabulary. This includes a best practice approach to the tasking and deployment of special constables. I spoke at the NPIA special constables awards on 17 June 2010 and expressed a desire to boost recruitment of special constables, and am considering ways to achieve this.

### Telephone Tapping

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of telephone *(a)* hacking and *(b)* blagging have been investigated since 6 May 2010. [2395]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office has not had any incidents of telephone hacking or blagging reported since 6 May 2010.

### Terrorism: Stop and Search

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, on stop-and-search authorisation, *Official Report*, columns 23-28WS, how many individuals have been charged with offences when stopped under an unlawful section 44 power since 19 February 2001; and what steps she plans to take in respect of those charged and convicted under those powers. [2475]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office has written to the chief constables of those forces which were identified as having erroneous section 44 authorisations and we await their replies. The chief constables have been requested to provide details of any actions arising from these stop and searches. As indicated in my written ministerial statement on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-28WS, the forces concerned have also been requested to provide details of "how many individuals were stopped and searched in the periods of invalid authorisations". The Home Secretary has indicated that she will report back to the House as necessary.

### Vetting

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the elimination of need for British citizens who have successfully been Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checked in respect of one area of activity to be CRB-checked for other areas of activity; and whether the concept of a portable CRB clearance is to be introduced in the near future. [2835]

**Lynne Featherstone:** A criminal records disclosure provides an employer or volunteer organiser who is considering placing an individual in an eligible post with current criminal records and related information. As such the information contained on it is valid at the time the disclosure is issued and in the case of any local police information, will be that information considered relevant for a particular position.

A disclosure certificate is a sensitive document and is restricted from being passed between organisations by the terms of Part V of the Police Act 1997 subject to certain exemptions, primarily where the applicant has provided their consent.

The Criminal Records Bureau is considering the feasibility of updating criminal records information provided to employers and others. The Government have announced their intention to review the criminal records regime. Terms of reference are currently being developed and this issue will be taken into account.

### Zakir Naik

**Michael Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will refuse an entry visa to Mr Zakir Naik. [1375]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 8 June 2010]:* I can confirm that on 16 June my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary personally made the decision to exclude Dr Naik from the UK on the grounds that his presence in the UK was not conducive to the public good. Numerous comments made by Dr Naik are evidence of his unacceptable behaviour.

As a result of the exclusion, Dr Naik's visit visa to the UK has been cancelled.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Housing: Construction

**Paul Goggins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure the provision of additional affordable housing in *(a)* Manchester, *(b)* Trafford and *(c)* Wythenshawe and Sale East constituency. [3106]

**Grant Shapps:** We are committed to the provision of affordable housing and are reviewing budgets across all CLG and HCA programmes. The position will be clarified in the Budget on 22 June 2010.

However it will be up to the local authorities to determine the level of provision of affordable housing in their respective areas based on financial incentives to authorities who approve planning for houses.

### Community Development: North East

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the future of Tees Valley Unlimited. [3230]

**Robert Neill:** I am aware that Tees Valley has progressed well as a partnership and that this month its leadership board agreed a focused 'Statement of Ambition' covering its core priorities for the future. My Department will continue to work closely with Tees Valley Unlimited and will discuss the possibility of it becoming a local enterprise partnership, if that is the wish of local authorities and local businesses.

### Council Housing: Construction

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the level of funding for private finance initiative housing schemes for the purpose of identifying ways in which local authorities could built decent homes in a more cost-effective way; and if he will make a statement. [3408]

**Andrew Stunell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 368W.

### Council Housing: Harlow

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the amount received in rental income by Harlow District Council in respect of properties in Harlow constituency which was subsequently paid to his Department's housing revenue account in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [3150]

**Grant Shapps:** The following table sets out the housing revenue account (HRA) negative subsidy payments made to the Department by Harlow council since 2004-05, with provisional figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11. Payment of negative HRA subsidy to central Government was brought in by the Local Government Act 2003.

| *Harlow council* | *HRA negative subsidy payments (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2010-11[1] | -12,777,442 |
| 2009-10[1] | -12,605,440 |
| 2008-09 | -11,912,413 |
| 2007-08 | -10,559,289 |
| 2006-07 | -9,348,862 |
| 2005-06 | -8,304,751 |
| 2004-05 | -8,906,119 |

[1] Provisional figures

The HRA subsidy system is currently under review. I will be considering all the responses to the document "Council housing: a real future" after consultation closes on 6 July.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 127W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff members employed at each payband in each ministerial private office in his Department. [3241]

**Robert Neill:** The salary range for each pay band is:

Pay band 2: £23,218 to £25,847

Pay band 3: £24,951 to £30,162

Pay band 4 has two scales: £28,668 to £34,655 and £27,000 to £35,000. The latter is for fast streamers only.

Pay band 6: £44,494 to £57,110

Senior civil servant pay band 1: £58,200 to £117,750

### Departmental Postal Services

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on postage in 2009. [3339]

**Robert Neill:** Communities spent £42,391 with Royal Mail in 2009.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to analyse the distributional effect of the options for reductions in his Department's expenditure. [2863]

**Robert Neill:** The Government set out in their document 'Spending Review Framework' that they will "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions." (2.4, page 7). Further information will be available at the spending review.

The importance of protecting frontline services has already underpinned decisions on the Local Government contribution to the £6.2 billion cross-Government savings in 2010-11. Where revenue grants to local authorities have been reduced, no local authority will face a reduction of more than 2% overall. Local government will be free to make their own decisions about where savings are found. We have ensured that councils have the flexibility to take decisions locally on how to deliver the savings needed by removing ring-fences around central Government grants to local government. This will enable local authorities to redirect funds to protect the delivery of the essential frontline services that matter most to their local communities.

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much his Department's capital underspend was in each of the last five financial years; [3755]

(2) what end of year flexibility his Department has had in each of the last five financial years. [3760]

**Robert Neill:** The following tables set out the amount of accumulated End of Year Flexibility (EYF) for this Department over the last five years together with its capital underspend in each of those years. The figures have been split between the Department's Main programme and the Local Government Expenditure and also between Resource and Capital Expenditure. These figures are published by HM Treasury in the Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper

It is not possible to track easily underspends and EYF carry forward because of other material adjustments that take place.

*Main Programme—Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)*

*Resource*

*£ million*

| *Financial year* | *Accumulated EYF at start of the year* | *Drawn down in year* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 332 | -69 |
| 2006-07 | 113 | -36 |
| 2007-08 | 145 | -68 |
| 2008-09 | 185 | -9 |
| 2009-10 | 346 | -21 |

*Capital*

*£ million*

| *Financial year* | *Accumulated EYF at start of the year* | *Drawn down in year* | *Capital underspend in year* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 238 | -178 | 93 |
| 2006-07 | 410 | -74 | 221 |
| 2007-08 | 604 | -241 | 0.3 |
| 2008-09 | 397 | 0 | 235 |
| 2009-10 | 631 | 0 | [1]210 |

[1] The capital underspend for 2009-10 are estimated figures.

*Local Government Expenditure Limits*

*Resource*

*£ million*

| *Financial year* | *Accumulated EYF at start of the year* | *Drawn down in year* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 101 | -37 |
| 2006-07 | 42 | — |
| 2007-08 | 57 | — |
| 2008-09 | 107 | -10 |
| 2009-10 | 177 | — |

*Capital*

*£ million*

| *Financial year* | *Accumulated EYF at start of the year* | *Drawn down in year* | *Capital underspend in year* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 254 | -39 | 71 |
| 2006-07 | 286 | -7 | 43 |
| 2007-08 | 322 | — | 96 |
| 2008-09 | 418 | -92 | 55 |
| 2009-10 | 381 | -89 | [1]0 |

[1] The capital underspend for 2009-10 are estimated figures.

## Departmental Reviews

**Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Government departments: reviews, what reviews his Department is undertaking; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* timescale of each is. [2584]

**Robert Neill:** The Coalition Agreement sets out in detail the Government's future plans, including the key reviews they will be undertaking. My Department will bring forward detailed information about these reviews in due course.

## Fire Services

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the cost of delays to the FiReControl project; and what his latest estimate is of the *(a)* date of completion and *(b)* total cost of the project. [2774]

**Robert Neill** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]*: The previous Government's FiReControl project has been subject to delays and increasing costs. The costs of these are set out in detail in the FiReControl Business Case.

We are looking closely at this project to establish what we can do to improve the situation. We are committed to ensuring value-for-money for the taxpayer, improving resilience and stopping the forced regionalisation of the fire service.

The estimated date of the network going live is May 2011 and the total cost of the project is currently forecast to be £423 million.

## Homelessness

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to improve the provision of housing for homeless individuals and families. [3323]

**Grant Shapps:** The £80 million Places of Change programme is investing in hostels and homeless services to help homeless people continue their journey away from the streets and enable them to move into independent living or more appropriate supported accommodation in England. The newly formed cross-government ministerial taskforce will ensure that the needs of single homeless people are being met.

We recognise that there is a continued need for affordable housing, to meet the needs of homeless families, and we remain committed to the provision of affordable housing.

## Housing: Construction

**Mr Gyimah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to issue further guidance to local authorities on the methodology and timetable for locally-agreed housing targets. [3136]

**Robert Neill:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to the Leader of each local authority in England on 27 May to reaffirm our commitment to abolish regional strategies and return decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils. Decisions on housing supply will rest with local planning authorities without the framework of regional numbers and plans. The Government will make a formal announcement on this matter in due course.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on minimum and maximum dwelling densities in new housing developments. [3440]

**Robert Neill:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Minister with responsibility for decentralisation on 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 9WS.

**Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the inclusion of *(a)* household projections and *(b)* binding housing targets in regional spatial strategies into existing structural plans. [3573]

**Robert Neill:** We are absolutely committed to abolishing regional strategies, including regional housing targets. This will return decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils. It will be for local planning authorities to establish the right level of housing provision in their local development plans.

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the number of jobs *(a)* created and *(b)* supported for each £1 million of expenditure on new build housing in the latest period for which figures are available. [3756]

**Grant Shapps:** The Department has estimated that, in 2009, every £1 million of expenditure in new build housing supported 11 net jobs for a year. This figure takes account of direct jobs supported in the house building industry and indirect (supply chain) jobs. It also takes account of displacement effects, where increased spending on housing building takes investment (and associated jobs) away from other parts of the economy.

### Local Government

**Elizabeth Truss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for devolution of greater power to local communities. [3359]

**Greg Clark:** The Department for Communities and Local Government is drawing up plans for implementing a number of commitments contained in the coalition programme for Government, and in the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister's announcement on 'Building the Big Society', which will lead to the devolution of greater power to local communities. These include: radical reform of the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live; and the introduction of new powers to help communities save local facilities and services threatened with closure, and give communities the right to take over local state-run services. The forthcoming 'localism bill' will include new powers for communities, including greater financial autonomy to community groups, and the creation of new trusts that would make it simpler for communities to provide homes for local people.

In addition, we will be working closely with other Departments on the implementation of a wide set of proposals aimed at meeting the Government's ambitions to bring about a fundamental shift of power from Westminster to the people, to encourage social responsibility, and to make it easier for people to come together to improve their communities and help one another, as set out in the coalition agreement.

### Local Government Finance

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of local authority funds which will no longer be ring-fenced in 2010-11; and for what reasons changes have been made to that estimate since 24 May 2010. [3839]

**Robert Neill:** The total of £1.7 billion used the latest published information for local government available prior to the announcement on 24 May of the efficiency savings to be found in 2010-11. The list of grants which will be de-ring-fenced takes account of the changes proposed by departments. The £1.7 billion also mistakenly included two grants where further work identified this funding as already providing local authorities with flexibility for local decisions on the use of that funding.

Non-schools ring-fencing has still reduced from 10.6% to 7.7%. The coalition agreement makes clear that Ministers want to signal a fundamental shift of power and end the era of top-down government by giving new powers to local councils. The Government will phase out the ring-fencing of grants to local government. Decisions on this will be taken in the context of the next spending review.

The CLG capital grant for private sector renewal (£300 million) was included as ring-fenced when it has now become clear that there is no control on local authority spending. A smaller Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (£29 million) was also included but this grant ended in 2008-09 and is therefore irrelevant to any calculations to provide a reduction in ring-fencing.

### Non-domestic Rates

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on providing relief for small businesses arising out of the late billing of the business rates for financial year 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [3820]

**Robert Neill:** The collection of business rates is carried out by local billing authorities, under the framework set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1988. Authorities are under a duty to collect business rates diligently. Any application for Small Business Rate Relief received before 30 September 2010 can be backdated for the financial year 2009-10 provided the eligibility requirements are met.

### Private Rented Housing

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he has made an assessment of the merits of each of the recommendations of the Rugg Review of the private rented housing sector; [3291]

(2) what steps he plans to take in response to the recommendations of the Rugg Review of private rented sector housing. [3299]

**Andrew Stunell:** This Government are committed to ensuring an appropriate balance of rights and responsibilities between landlords and tenants. We have carefully considered the recommendations of the Rugg Review of the private rented sector. But we think that the existing legislative framework for the sector already achieves the right balance. We, therefore, have no plans to introduce further regulation. However, we continue to consider other issues highlighted by the Review, including the potential for greater investment in the private rented sector.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of tenant deposit schemes. [3293]

**Grant Shapps:** I have no plans to change the requirement for landlords to protect any deposits taken under an Assured Shorthold Tenancy. The three existing schemes operate under contracts which come to an end in April 2012. We will, therefore, take steps to ensure that schemes are in place which enable landlords to meet their obligations beyond April 2012.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the adequacy of the regulations in place for residential letting agents. [3297]

**Andrew Stunell:** Residential letting and managing agents are not currently subject to specific mandatory regulation, although, in common with all commercial organisations, they are bound by overarching fair trading legislation. There are three well established voluntary regulatory schemes which provide effective protection for consumers. I am keen to work with the industry to explore how consumers can be made more aware of the advantages of using an agent who belongs to one of these schemes.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on *(a)* the Rugg Review of private rented sector housing and *(b)* the future regulation of the private rented sector. [3298]

**Grant Shapps:** Since 16 May 2010, my Department has received three representations relating to the Rugg Review of the private rented sector and five concerning future regulation of the sector.

### Regional Planning and Development: South West

**Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has with regard to the unadopted regional spatial strategy for the South West. [3494]

**Robert Neill:** We are committed to abolishing regional strategies and returning decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils without the framework of regional housing numbers and plans. The Secretary of State has written to all local authority leaders and the Planning Inspectorate confirming the Government's intention and that letter can be used as a material consideration in planning decisions.

In general, policies and proposals of the once emerging regional spatial strategy for the South West carry little weight. Evidence that informed the preparation of the regional strategy may be a material consideration depending on the facts of the case and what weight may be attached is a matter for an individual decision maker.

### Social Rented Housing: Stockport

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in the Metropolitan Borough of Stockport are on the social housing list; and if he will make a statement. [3278]

**Grant Shapps:** There are 7,842 households on the council's waiting list compared with 5,999 in 1997.

### Strokes: Health Services

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he received from the Department of Health on the likely effects of his decision to end the ring-fencing of money for the national stroke strategy; what meetings were held between Ministers in his Department and in the Department of Health on the matter before the decision was taken; if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence received from the Department of Health on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [2484]

**Robert Neill** *[holding answer 16 June 2010]:* The Coalition Agreement sets out that the Government will phase out the ring-fencing of grants to local government. The decision by the Department of Health to end the restrictions on a number of grants, including the National Stroke Strategy, as part of the measures announced by the Chancellor on 24 May for over £6 billion of savings in 2010-11 to reduce the fiscal deficit, provides local authorities with the flexibility to continue to deliver essential frontline services.

By removing the ring-fencing of grants, we are giving councils more freedom to direct funding to the most high priority areas that local people want—including increasing support for social care if this is a local wish.

### Travellers: Caravan Sites

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with chief constables on their powers in relation to unauthorised traveller encampments; and if he will make a statement. [3074]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with chief constables on their powers in relation to unauthorised traveller encampments.

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to bring forward proposals to increase the powers of local authorities and the police in relation to unauthorised traveller encampments; and if he will make a statement. [3075]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Government are reviewing this matter and announcements will be made in due course.

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the powers of local authorities and the police in relation to unauthorised traveller sites; and if he will make a statement. [3076]

**Andrew Stunell:** As at 17 June 2010, 50 letters from members of the public, 18 items of ministerial correspondence and one petition have been received in Communities and Local Government on issues related to local authority and police powers to address unauthorised Traveller sites.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Bangladesh: Floods

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance his Department is providing to assist following the recent floods and landslides in Bangladesh. [3627]

**Mr Duncan:** The recent floods and landslides in Bangladesh have had tragic consequences, with thousands of people affected. The UK provides continuing support to the Government of Bangladesh for its planning and response to disasters, including £12 million to the Government's Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) (2009-14). Last month DFID facilitated a co-ordination meeting of the Bangladesh Consultative Group on Disaster Response, chaired by the Government of Bangladesh, to discuss how to respond to the needs of the flood-affected people. Local non-governmental organisations are currently responding to those needs and we continue to monitor the situation. Additional work is required to protect those at risk from further landslides. This work will be carried out under the DFID-supported CDMP mentioned above.

### Fairtrade Foundation: Finance

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department provided to the Fairtrade Foundation in each of the last three years; and for what purposes it provided that funding. [3720]

**Mr Duncan:** The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £386,504 and £140,100 in direct grants to the Fairtrade Foundation in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. This was for (a) work to further develop mainstream markets for Fairtrade certified products in the UK; and (b) a Fairtrade Schools scheme to use Fairtrade as an example of sustainable development in schools and school communities.

In addition the Fairtrade Labelling Organisations International (FLO) provided £220,627 and £91,543 of DFID funding to the Fairtrade Foundation in 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively. This funding was used to review certification and licensing processes and to develop new products to come into Fairtrade.

### Marie Stopes International

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department has made to Marie Stopes International for *(a)* abortion, *(b)* family planning and *(c)* other reproductive health services in the last 12 months; how much he plans to allocate to Marie Stopes International for those purposes in each of the next three years; what recent assessment he has made of the value for money of such expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [2911]

**Mr O'Brien:** Funding to all UK Civil Society Organisations is published annually in 'Statistics on International Development', which is available in the Library and on the Department for International Development (DFID) website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2009/

In 2008-09 the DFID provide £770,000 to Marie Stopes International through four Civil Society Challenge Fund grants. The 2009-10 figures will be published in September 2010. DFID does not classify spending under the categories requested and this information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. Additional payments can also be made through country offices and partners supporting reproductive and maternal health programmes.

It is a major priority for the UK Government to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to modern family planning methods and promoting women's choice, in the developing world.

DFID is currently reviewing its bilateral and multilateral development assistance to ensure effectiveness and value for money. Funding to Marie Stopes International for the next three years will be reviewed under this process.

### Pakistan: Overseas Aid

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the security situation in Balochistan and Sindh provinces of Pakistan on UK aid to the region. [3628]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Currently the Department for International Development (DFID) provides support to Balochistan and Sindh provinces mainly through federal level programmes, principally within the health sector. These programmes are implemented by the provincial governments. To date, the programmes have not been affected to any significant degree by security issues. This is kept under review as part of our risk management procedures.

We are also considering the future shape of the programme in Pakistan as part of the bilateral aid review.

## HEALTH

### Abortion

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in each strategic health authority area in England and Wales who had had *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five, *(f)* six, *(g)* seven, *(h)* eight, *(i)* nine and *(j)* 10 or more previous abortions had an abortion in 2009. [2918]

**Anne Milton:** The information we can provide is shown in the following table. The Department has withheld data where there are totals of less than 10 (between 0 and 9) cases as we believe the disclosure of this information could breach an individual's confidentiality. This is in accordance with the Office for National Statistics guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

*Number of previous abortions by strategic health authority of residence, 2009*

| | Number of previous abortions | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Strategic health authority* | *0* | *1* | *2* | *3* | *4* | *5 or more* | *Total* |
| East of England | 10,892 | 3,988 | 1,002 | 230 | 69 | 30 | 16,211 |
| East Midlands | 8,564 | 2,597 | 558 | 127 | 40 | 17 | 11,903 |
| London | 27,104 | 13,827 | 3,917 | 1,049 | 313 | 150 | 46,360 |
| North East | 5,261 | 1,533 | 331 | 67 | [1]— | [1]— | 7,220 |
| North West | 17,408 | 5,893 | 1,240 | 244 | 70 | 19 | 24,874 |
| South Central | 7,549 | 2,723 | 646 | 125 | 31 | 17 | 11,091 |
| South East | 8,418 | 3,448 | 878 | 167 | 60 | 25 | 12,996 |
| South West | 9,292 | 2,991 | 577 | 117 | 43 | 15 | 13,035 |
| West Midlands | 13,471 | 5,159 | 1,229 | 240 | 63 | 19 | 20,181 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 11,384 | 3,910 | 833 | 191 | 44 | 26 | 16,388 |
| Wales | 6,367 | 1,971 | 391 | 80 | [1]— | [1]— | 8,841 |
| England and Wales | 125,710 | 48,040 | 11,602 | 2,637 | 779 | 332 | 189,100 |

[1] Suppressed value less than 10.

*Note:*

Number of previous abortions are grouped where totals are less than 10 (between 0 and 9) or where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value from previously published data.

## Breast Cancer: Screening

**Yvonne Fovargue:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of eligible women in the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan attended breast screening clinics in the latest period for which figures are available; and what steps he plans to take to improve the take-up of breast screening services in *(a)* the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan and *(b)* nationally. [3140]

**Mr Burstow:** The information is not available in the format requested, as breast screening attendance statistics for the metropolitan borough of Wigan are not recorded. However, statistics from Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust (PCT), which covers the Wigan area, based on the number of the women screened from the eligible population, rather than the number of women attending screening, can be provided. This is also the case for national screening figures, which are based on the number of the women screened from the eligible population and have also been provided in the following table.

The data show the eligible population, number of women screened and the proportion of the eligible population screened within three years, as at 31 March 2009.

| *Area* | *Eligible population* | *Number of women screened* | *Proportion screened (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | 33,007 | 25,173 | 76.3 |
| England | 5,166,515 | 3,954,050 | 76.5 |

These figures are available in Table 11a of the 'Breast Screening Programme, England 2008-09' report. Information is provided by PCT and strategic health authority on an annual basis. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

PCTs are responsible for managing the NHS Breast Screening Programme locally and for organising local screening awareness initiatives as appropriate. In March 2010 the Department published 'Reducing cancer inequality: evidence, progress and making it happen: a report by the National Cancer Equality Initiative' which recommended that PCTs review local levels of screening coverage and uptake to consider whether further action is required to improve coverage and uptake. A copy of the report has already been placed in the Library.

## Dementia: Drugs

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what evidence on the inappropriate use of anti-psychotic medicines the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is including in its review of anti-Alzheimer's disease medication; [3398]

(2) if the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence will bring forward the timetable for the planned review of its guidance on Dementia: supporting people with dementia and their carers in health and social care for the purposes of incorporating the recommendations made by Professor Sube Banerjee in his report on the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs to people with dementia of 12 November 2009. [3405]

**Mr Burstow:** Decisions on the evidence to be considered by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in updates of its guidance and the timetables for updates are matters for the Institute as an independent body.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by his Department on reducing the use of anti-psychotic drugs by two-thirds, as recommended by Professor Sube Banerjee in his report to the Minister for Care Services of 12 November 2009. [3400]

**Mr Burstow:** The National Clinical Director for dementia is leading the work to implement the recommendations made by Professor Sube Banerjee in his report in to the use of anti-psychotic medicines, which was published in November 2009. As a priority, the Department is working with the NHS Information Centre to develop an audit of the prescribing of anti-psychotics for people with dementia with the aim of achieving a two-thirds reduction over a period of two years from establishing a baseline position. The results of the audit are expected by October 2010.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms will be used to measure his Department's progress on the recommendations made by Professor Sube Banerjee in his report on the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs to people with dementia of 12 November 2009. [3404]

**Mr Burstow:** The Department's progress on addressing the recommendations within Professor Sube Banerjee's report will be monitored by the National Dementia Strategy Programme Board responsible for the delivery and implementation of the National Dementia Strategy. The audit of the prescribing of anti-psychotics for people with dementia will be a key mechanism for measuring the reduction in the use of anti-psychotic drugs.

### Dental Services: Bolton

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS dentists there are in Bolton; and how many are accepting new patients; [3260]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that sufficient dentists are recruited to meet demand for NHS dental services in Bolton. [3738]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information is not available in the format requested.

During the year ending 31 March 2009, there were 136 dentists with national health service activity in the Bolton primary care trust (PCT) area.

The number of dentists accepting new NHS patients is not collected centrally. However, these data will be available direct from Bolton PCT.

The Coalition programme includes a commitment to the introduction of a new dental contract that will focus on achieving good dental health and increasing access to NHS dentistry, providing care for an additional million patients.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3202]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Other than the three Permanent Secretaries, no civil servants or special advisers are entitled to the use of a car with a dedicated driver or a car from the Government car pool.

All three of the Permanent Secretaries have voluntarily given up their entitlement to a dedicated driver. Two have already ceased to have a dedicated driver. In the remaining case, notice has been issued and the arrangement ends on 19 August 2010.

The Department has an account with Computer Cab for those staff who need to use a taxi as part of a reasonable adjustment, for example, those who have mobility issues. Currently seven individuals have access to Computer Cab as a reasonable adjustment.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what end of year flexibility his Department has had in each of the last five financial years. [3826]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Departmental end of year flexibility is published by HM Treasury in the annual Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper—table six. The last five years published reports are:

2004-05: CM 6639

2005-06: CM 6883

2006-07: CM 7156

2007-08: CM 7419

2008-09: CM 7606.

HM Treasury are to publish the 2009-10 Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper in July 2010.

Draw-down of end of year flexibility is published in Supplementary Parliamentary Estimates and for the Department is as follows:

| | *£ million* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)* | *Capital DEL* | *Library reference* |
| 2004-05 | 471.184 | 355.183 | HC1234 |
| 2005-06 | — | 200.000 | HC827 |
| 2006-07 | — | — | — |
| 2007-08 | 6.000 | — | H273 |
| 2008-09 | 3.000 | — | H265 |
| 2009-10 | — | — | |

### Diabetes: Health Education

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to raise awareness of the symptoms of diabetes amongst members of the public who have the condition but who remain undiagnosed. [3216]

**Mr Burstow:** It is important to identify people with diabetes early to ensure that they receive prompt treatment to enable them to manage their diabetes and help to delay or prevent long term complications of the condition.

The Department has initiatives in place to encourage healthy eating and promote an active lifestyle, which raise awareness of type 2 diabetes. Primary care trusts are running vascular risk assessment and management programmes. These proactively identify and manage people at high risk of vascular disease including diabetes.

### Dietary Supplements: EU Law

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when next he expects to meet the European Health Commissioner; and if he will discuss with the Commissioner representations he has received on the proposals for maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the EU Food Supplements Directive. [3424]

**Anne Milton:** There are no current plans for Health Ministers to meet with the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy to discuss representations he has received on the proposals for maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

### Epilepsy

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* incidence and *(b)* cost of misdiagnosis of epilepsy. [2800]

**Mr Burstow:** The Department has made no recent estimate of the incidence, or cost, of misdiagnosis of epilepsy.

However, an independent study from the Health Services Management Centre at Birmingham University and the National Collaborating Centre for Primary Care at the University of Leicester, published in the British Medical Journal, reported that each year more than 90,000 people in England and Wales were wrongly diagnosed with epilepsy, resulting in unnecessary costs of as much as £138 million a year.

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (which receives its funding from the Department), has commissioned a national clinical audit known as 'Epilepsy 12' (so-called because the audit covers 12 key indicators derived from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network) to facilitate local health services to evaluate clinical practice, patient experience and service descriptors in a standardised and meaningful way. One of the things it will do is to look at misdiagnosis rates and patient experience as achievable outcome measures. It will not look at costs. Data collection is due to start in the autumn of 2010 at early adopter sites, with a national roll out to follow soon after. The audit is being coordinated by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

### Food Standards Agency

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to change the *(a)* structure and *(b)* staffing level of the offices of the Food Standards Agency responsible for (i) nutrition, (ii) food safety and public health and (iii) other matters. [3425]

**Anne Milton:** Ministers are currently exploring options for the Food Standards Agency.

### Health Centres

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Government's policy is on the support primary care trusts will be required to give to polyclinics in the future. [2877]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government's policy is that changes to local health services, such as moving care out of hospital into the community, should be led by general practitioners with other local clinicians, working alongside patients and the public, and not be driven by top-down instructions.

As a result of the complexity and scale of the changes proposed in London, we have asked NHS London to make recommendations about how service change in the capital should be taken forward in line with the principle of local decision-making.

### Health Services: Overseas Visitors

**Gordon Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to extend to six months per year the permitted period of absence for current UK residents who are not pensioners during which they are not liable to be charged for hospital treatment. [3480]

**Anne Milton:** The Government are considering this area.

### Heart Diseases: Children

**Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to continue the current review of the provision of children's heart surgery in England. [2804]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The current review of the provision of children's heart surgery in England is continuing.

The review, known as the Safe and Sustainable programme, will develop proposals for the future configuration of services and these will be the subject of a three-month public consultation to commence in autumn 2010.

### Hospices: Children

**Mr Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in *(a)* Wirral, *(b)* Liverpool, *(c)* Knowsley, *(d)* Warrington, *(e)* Halton and St Helens, *(f)* Western Cheshire, *(g)* Central and Eastern Cheshire, *(h)* Sefton and *(i)* Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust were in receipt of children's hospice services at the latest date for which figures are available. [3571]

**Anne Milton:** The information requested is not held centrally.

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons Julia's House Children's Hospice in Dorset has been charged £1,220 by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to vary its registration by the addition of one bedroom; if he will require the CQC to revoke the charge; and if he will make a statement. [3719]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Under the Care Standards Act 2000 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is responsible for setting the level of registration fees payable by different providers. It is a standard principle that organisations that are regulated should meet the cost of regulation. CQC registration provides assurance to users of registered services that the care that a provider delivers meets regulations and relevant minimum standards.

CQC has advised that Julia's House Children's Hospice in Dorset has been charged £1,220 for an application that relates to a 'major variation' to the hospice's registration with CQC as a provider of independent healthcare under the Care Standards Act 2000. A major variation such as this means CQC needs to carry out a site visit in order to approve the change to the hospice's registration.

A full consultation on CQC's future fees structure, which will come in from April 2011, is due to start later this year.

### Malnutrition

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the number of people who are classified as underweight. [3094]

**Anne Milton:** Adult Trend Table 4 in the "Health Survey for England—2008:" trend tables contains information on the percentage of adults aged 16 and over who are underweight.

Information on the estimated number of underweight adults is included in the Health Survey for England—2008: trend tables, Population number estimate tables, Table 1. This publication is available on the NHS Information Centre's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles-related-surveys/health-survey-for-england/health-survey-for-england--2008-trend-tables

and has already been placed in the Library.

Information on the proportion of children who are underweight in England is collected through the National Child Measurement programme (NCMP). Table A in the NCMP main report for 2008-09 shows the prevalence of underweight children aged four-five years and 10-11 years. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

### Muscular Dystrophy: Health Services

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve specialist neuromuscular services for people with muscle-wasting conditions. [3849]

**Mr Burstow:** Primary care trust commissioners have responsibility for commissioning services, using the national service framework for long-term neurological services, that reflect the needs of their patients living with neuromuscular conditions.

Some rare neuromuscular conditions, detailed in the specialised services definitions set, are regarded as specialised and therefore subject to collaborative commissioning arrangements. The 10 specialised commissioning groups, acting on behalf of their member primary care trusts, are responsible for the commissioning arrangements for specialised services.

Ultimately, it is for those in the local national health service who commission services to ensure that care packages take account of patient needs.

### NHS: Snow and Ice

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts in England provided funding to local highway authorities to clear snow off pavements and roads in winter 2009-10. [2943]

**Anne Milton:** The Department does not routinely collect data from primary care trusts regarding funding of the clearance of snow from pavements and roads.

### NHS: Wigan

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which regional office of the proposed NHS Commissioning Board will have responsibility for the area covered by Wigan constituency; and what plans he has for that office. [2753]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The coalition agreement included a commitment to establish a new independent NHS Commissioning Board to allocate resources and provide commissioning guidelines. The NHS Commissioning Board will exercise its functions through regional offices that will report directly to the Chief Executive. We will bring forward proposals for the NHS Commissioning Board and how it will work in due course. In the meantime, strategic health authorities will continue to have a vital role in delivering financial control and performance, and driving improvements in quality and productivity.

### Nurses

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* clinical effectiveness and *(b)* cost-effectiveness of specialist nurses. [2801]

**Anne Milton:** There are multiple variables that have an impact on the effectiveness of nurse specialist services. Local national health service organisations are best placed to develop service models that put patients at the heart of care and have a clear and rigorous focus on improving health outcomes.

Not all nurse specialist services are designed and delivered in the same way. There are many different objectives for these services based on either enhancing current care provision or substituting the professional delivering the care. As such, determining the clinical and cost effectiveness of these services is often not straight forward.

The variety in the way services are delivered by nurse specialists often makes direct comparison difficult. For example, some nurse specialists may prescribe or order and interpret diagnostic tests which are usually done by a doctor, others may provide intensive counselling and support that enhances the care provided by other professionals. Services tend to evolve locally to meet the specific needs of local patients.

There are several studies, some including cost effectiveness, of specialist nurses who are managing some or all of the care of patients that would normally be done by hospital consultants. Generally, the outcomes can be equivalent. There is often an indication of improved patient experiences, and for nurse delivered enhanced services, improved outcomes.

For consultant nurses, there is evidence that evaluation is often undertaken before the role has had time to develop fully, often making judgements about the effectiveness of the role misleading. This is a problem for primary care in particular. There is emerging evidence of consultant nurses having a positive impact on patient outcomes.

### Pesticides: EU Law

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to review the implementation of EU Regulation 669/2009 with regard to pesticide sampling requirements concerning high-risk non-animal original foodstuffs; and what discussions his Department plans to hold with the Food Standards Agency on the matter. [3606]

**Anne Milton:** In the United Kingdom the Food Standards Agency is the central competent authority responsible for the implementation of EU Regulation 669/2009. This legislation is directly aimed at protecting public health, and covers the level of official controls on imports of certain feed and food of non-animal origin.

Annex 1 to the regulation contains a list of feed and food of non-animal origin imported from certain third countries that, based on known or emerging risks to public health, are subject to an increased level of official controls at designated points of entry to the European Union. The product, the country of origin, the health hazard—including pesticide residues or other contaminants—and the frequency of checks are reviewed quarterly by the Commission.

The annex is currently being reviewed by experts from member states and the UK will make representations, based on discussions held with stakeholders, including importers and the port health authorities, and experience gathered following implementation. The UK will continue to press for the listing criteria to be more transparent and evidence based.

### Smoking: Hartlepool

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to increase the number of people ceasing to smoke in Hartlepool constituency. [3229]

**Anne Milton:** The Department is currently considering how best to tackle this issue in the context of the new prioritisation and focus on public health.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Early Day Motions

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward proposals for the automatic debate in the House of Early Day Motions which have attracted support from a minimum number of hon. Members. [3453]

**Mr Heath:** Debates on motions tabled by backbenchers will be a matter for the Backbench Business Committee, which is currently being elected under arrangements made by the Speaker.

I expect the Committee to be established next week.

### Members' Staff: Training

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will discuss with the House authorities the establishment of a human resources department to handle professional training for the staff of hon. Members. [3175]

**Mr Heath:** The House of Commons provides training for the staff of hon. Members, both in-house and through a contract with Capita Learning and Development. A full list of courses and booking details is available on-line at:

www.w4mp.org

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Fixed-term Parliaments

7. **Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent representations he has received on plans to establish fixed-term Parliaments. [3365]

**Mr Harper:** As well as representations made by Members of this House in debates and questions, I have received a number of items of correspondence. I have also been working closely with colleagues across Government to deliver our pledge to introduce fixed term Parliaments, including the Leader of the House of Commons who has made it clear that the Committee Stage of the Bill will be taken on the floor of the House and there will be adequate opportunity for the House to debate it. I look forward to engaging further with Members from both sides of the House.

### Returning Officers

8. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to continue the existing system of payments to returning officers for the local elections to be held in May 2011. [3366]

**Mr Harper:** Under section 36 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, all expenditure properly incurred by a returning officer in administering local authority elections must be paid by the local authority, in so far as it does not exceed any scale fixed by the local authority. This may include a fee for the returning officer, however some local authorities do not pay a fee but include remuneration for undertaking returning officer duties in the salary of the relevant officer.

This money is paid from the revenue support grant which is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government. We have no plans to change these arrangements.

We need to make sure that all public services are delivered effectively and there is clarity about how public monies are spent. Returning officers are paid for this additional work but we expect in return that they ensure the effective planning for and conduct of elections.

### Constituencies

**Richard Harrington:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made on his proposals to create fewer constituencies with more equal numbers of electors. [3289]

**Mr Harper:** The Government have announced that they will introduce legislation to provide for the creation of fewer and more equally sized constituencies. Proposals are being carefully considered within Government and details will be announced in due course, with Parliament having the opportunity to debate them in detail.

### Electoral Systems

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to set a timetable for a referendum on electoral reform; what his timetable is for introducing to this House a Bill to give effect to legislative proposals for the holding of the proposed referendum. [3262]

**Mr Harper:** The Government have made clear their intention to introduce legislation providing for a national referendum on the Alternative Vote for future elections to the House of Commons. The appropriate timetable for this legislation and the subsequent referendum are currently being considered. Further details will be announced in due course.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Defence

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects the final report on the Strategic Security and Defence Review to be published. [3614]

**Mr Letwin:** The Coalition Agreement outlined the Government's commitment to carry out a full, wide-ranging Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) and the Queen's speech of late May announced this commitment formally. The Government expect to report their findings from the SDSR in the autumn alongside the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent staff at each Civil Service grade are employed in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [130]

**Mr Maude:** The breakdown of staff at each grade showing full time equivalents is shown in the following table:

| Minister | Staff grades | Full-time equivalents |
|---|---|---|
| Minister for the Cabinet Office | Senior Civil Servant | 1 |
| | HEO | 2 |
| | EO | 2 |
| | AO | 1 |
| Minister of State | HEO | 1 |
| | EO | 2.5 |
| Minister for Civil Society | HEO | 1 |
| | EO | 1.5 |
| Minister for Constitutional Reform | HEO | 1 |
| | EO | 1 |
| Minister without Portfolio | HEO | 1 |
| | EO | 1 |

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Carer's Allowance: Easington

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in Easington constituency *(a)* are in receipt of carer's allowance and *(b)* were in receipt of carer's allowance in each of the last five years. [3061]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is as follows:

*Number of people in receipt of carer's allowance in Easington constituency November 2004 to November 2009*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| November 2004 | 1,040 |
| August 2005 | 1,070 |
| November 2006 | 1,080 |
| November 2007 | 1,110 |
| November 2008 | 1,160 |
| November 2009 | 1,240 |

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

### Carers' Benefits

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to provide support for carers combining caring responsibilities with paid employment. [3473]

**Mr Davey** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]*: I have been asked to reply.

The Department intends to carry out a refresh of the previous Government's carers strategy and, as part of that, will consider how carers can be supported to effectively combine caring responsibility with paid employment.

The right to request flexible working is currently available to employed parents of children aged under 17, parents of disabled children under 18 and carers of certain adults. The Government are already committed to extending the right to request flexible working to all employees. This will ensure that individuals within the wider caring structure, e.g. grandparents and neighbours, will be able to take a more active role in caring, whilst managing their work and family lives effectively. This extension will also help to remove the stigma attached to flexible working requests at the moment. We will be consulting with business on how best to do it.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* make, *(b)* model and *(c)* place of manufacture is of the car allocated for the use of each Minister in his Department. [1490]

**Chris Grayling:** Ministers at the Department for Work and Pensions currently use a pool of four allocated drivers and four cars: three Toyota Prius T3s, manufactured in Japan, and one Jaguar XJ TDVi Executive manufactured in the UK.

Notice has been served on the contract on a fifth car, a Honda Civic ES Hybrid, manufactured in Japan. The 90 day notice period for this car expires in August. The car is currently retained by the Government Car Service.

Under the revised Ministerial Code the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed.

The Department and the Government Car and Despatch Agency are working together on the transition to the new arrangements.

### Disability Living Allowance: Peterborough

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each ward of Peterborough constituency are claiming disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [2796]

**Maria Miller:** The information is in the following table.

*Disability living allowance claimants at ward level in Peterborough parliamentary constituency: November 2009*

| *Ward* | *In payment* |
|---|---|
| Bretton North | 565 |
| Bretton South | 115 |
| Central | 540 |
| Dogsthorpe | 595 |
| East | 590 |
| Eye and Thorney | 270 |
| Newborough | 75 |
| North | 430 |
| Park | 355 |
| Paston | 515 |
| Ravensthorpe | 435 |
| Walton | 285 |
| Werrington North | 340 |
| Werrington South | 235 |
| West | 280 |

*Notes:*

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest five; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Caseload show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they in hospital.
3. Wards in Peterborough taken from the Office of Public Sector Information site at http://www.opsi.gov.uk/
4. Parliamentary constituency of claimant (Westminster) May 2005 General Election constituencies.
5. The sum of these wards will not match the total for Peterborough constituency due to some wards overlapping into other constituencies.

Source: DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

### Employment Schemes: Young People

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on the number of young people who will have been unemployed for one year or more in 2010-11 of the ending of the *(a)* youth guarantee and *(b)* Future Jobs Fund; [3860]

(2) what estimate he has made of the change in spending on jobseeker's allowance consequent on the ending of the *(a)* Future Jobs Fund, *(b)* Jobseeker's Guarantee and (c) youth guarantee in 2010-11; [3861]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on the number of people aged 18 to 24 years claiming jobseeker's allowance of *(a)* the end of the youth guarantee, *(b)* the end of the Future Jobs Fund and *(c)* changes in the number of university places in 2010-11. [3864]

**Chris Grayling:** The Young Person's Guarantee and Future Jobs Fund have not ended in 2010-11. The Government will ensure that people in danger of long-term unemployment get the support that they need to find work through the Work Programme, and will therefore not be introducing the Jobseeker's Guarantee.

### Future Jobs Fund

**Paul Goggins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Future Jobs Fund in helping unemployed people into work in *(a)* Manchester and *(b)* Trafford. [3104]

**Chris Grayling:** The Future Jobs Fund has not ended. All grants that have been agreed will be honoured, and by March 2011 over 100,000 jobs will have been funded nationally. The most recent Official Statistics covering the period October 2009 to January 2010 show that there were 1,300 recorded Future Jobs Fund starts in the Jobcentre Plus north-west region. The information requested on specific boroughs is not available.

The Future Jobs Fund created temporary, short term jobs, and the grants did not include any incentives to move people into permanent posts. The Government are investing £150 million to create 50,000 new apprenticeship places which will equip people with the skills they need and allow people to move into a long-term job. Next year we are also introducing a new single Work Programme which will provide better targeted support and deliver long lasting benefits with a greater focus on sustained employment.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of employment in *(a)* Greater Manchester, *(b)* the Metropolitan Borough of Stockport and *(c)* the Metropolitan Borough of Tameside of ending the Future Jobs Fund. [3275]

**Chris Grayling:** The Future Jobs Fund has not ended. All grants that have been agreed will be honoured and by March 2011 over 100,000 jobs will have been funded nationally. The most recent Official Statistics, covering the period October 2009 to January 2010, show that there were 1,300 recorded Future Jobs Fund starts in the Jobcentre Plus north-west region. The information requested on Greater Manchester, and specific boroughs, is not available.

The Future Jobs Fund created temporary, short-term jobs, and the grants did not include any incentives to move people into permanent posts. The Government are investing £150 million to create 50,000 new apprenticeship places which will equip people with the skills they need and allow people to move into a long term job. Next year we are also introducing a new single Work Programme which will provide better targeted support and deliver long lasting benefits with a greater focus on sustained employment.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of jobs created in Warrington by the Future Jobs Fund. [3840]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not available.

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs planned to be funded through the Future Jobs Fund by April 2012 will not be funded. [3862]

**Chris Grayling:** We expect that up to 111,000 people will have started a Future Jobs Fund job before it ends next year.

The Future Jobs Fund created temporary, short term jobs, and the grants did not include any incentives to move people into permanent posts. The Government are investing £150 million to create 50,000 new apprenticeship places which will equip people with the skills they need and allow people to move into a long term job. Next year we are also introducing a new single Work Programme which will provide better targeted support and deliver long lasting benefits with a greater focus on substantial employment.

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions his Department had with voluntary sector providers of the Future Jobs Fund prior to his announcement of the ending of the fund. [3863]

**Chris Grayling:** The Future Jobs Fund has not ended, and we are honouring all existing commitments to providers. We have received virtually no representations on this issue, and we are working closely with providers and future providers on the implementation of the Work Programme which will help young people move into sustained employment rather than temporary jobs.

## Jobcentre Plus: Digital Technology

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the principles of digital inclusion are taken into account in the provision of services by Jobcentre Plus. [3482]

**Chris Grayling:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked the Chief Executive to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh dated 22 June 2010:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking (i) what steps his Department is taking to ensure and (ii) whether he has made a recent assessment of the extent to which, the principles of digital inclusion are taken into account in the provision of services by Jobcentre Plus. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus recognises the importance of digital inclusion for our customers, especially those who are most disadvantaged and face the greatest barriers to work.

Many Jobcentre Plus services are available through digital channels, including searching for job vacancies, the Benefit Adviser Service on Directgov and the option of making a claim online for contributions-based Jobseeker's Allowance. We aim to help customers develop the skills and confidence to use these services together with the growing number of on-line services provided elsewhere in the private, voluntary and public sectors.

We are looking at a range of ways to address digital exclusion. These include the appointment of digital inclusion champions in Jobcentres and better signposting to help customers access support from our partners, such as the advice and provision available through UK Online in England and equivalents in Wales and Scotland. We see this work as important in tackling barriers to internet access which, with more employers using online recruitment to fill vacancies, is a real barrier to customers finding work.

Tackling digital exclusion is essential to addressing wider social mobility and ensuring that all our customers can benefit from the improvements that digital technologies can provide in helping them move from welfare to work.

## Jobseeker's Allowance: Per Capita Costs

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average annual cost to the public purse of each unemployed person in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [3481]

**Chris Grayling:** The average Department for Work and Pensions benefit expenditure per jobseeker's allowance claimant was £5,100 in 2009-10.

*Notes:*

1. Figure is rounded to the nearest £100.
2. The figure includes jobseeker's allowance, and housing benefit and council tax benefit paid to jobseeker's allowance claimants.
3. The figure is subject to change as final out-turn data on housing benefit and council tax benefit are not yet available.
4. The figure does not include any other benefit or tax credits paid to jobseeker's allowance claimants, nor jobcentre plus, local authority or employment programme costs associated with such claimants.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions statistical accounting data

## Pension Funds: Regulation

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he plans to review the regulatory framework for the consideration of environmental, social and governance risks by pension funds; [2838]

(2) if he will bring forward legislative proposals for the compulsory disclosure by pension funds of *(a)* the environmental, social and governance issues taken into account in their investment policy, *(b)* the way in which that policy is implemented and *(c)* the way in which shareholder rights are exercised; [2839]

(3) whether he plans to review the operation of the *(a)* Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 and *(b)* Stakeholder Pension Schemes Regulations 2000. [2840]

**Steve Webb:** The law already requires that an occupational pension scheme's 'Statement of Investment Principles' must include a declaration of the extent to which social, environmental and ethical considerations are taken into account in the schemes investments. The statement must also include the scheme's policy (if any) in relation to the exercise of the rights (including voting rights) attaching to the investments.

While the Government fully support the highest standards of corporate governance and ethical behaviour, we have no plans at present to review the environmental, social and governance requirements set out in the existing regulatory framework, or to introduce new legal requirements relating to pensions schemes' investment policy or the way in which shareholder rights are exercised.

Other aspects of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005 and the Stakeholder Pension Schemes Regulations 2000, may need to be reviewed in the light of other developments such as the workplace pension reforms planned for 2012.

## Social Fund

**Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on reform of the Social Fund. [2496]

**Steve Webb:** We are currently considering all areas of departmental policy, including the Social Fund.

The consultation on the proposals set out in the Green Paper 'Social Fund Reform: debt, credit and low income households' (Cm 7750) closed on 7 June 2010. We will consider the responses to the consultation as we develop proposals for wider welfare reform.

## Social Security Benefits

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to ensure that receipt of benefits for those able to work is conditional on their willingness to work. [1958]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government have announced its plans for radical reforms of the welfare to work system and the implementation of the new Work programme. The integrated package of support provided by the Work programme will ensure that entitlement to benefit for those who are able to work will continue to be contingent on claimant's efforts to actively seek work.

Our determination to implement a tougher approach will ensure that where claimants refuse to engage with the support offered, or turn down reasonable offers of work, then effective sanctions will be applied. We will legislate if necessary.

## Social Security Benefits: Disability

**Mr Bacon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on the independent living fund in financial year *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 to date. [3759]

**Maria Miller:** The available information is in the table.

*Independent living fund expenditure broken down by admin and payments to users*

| | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|
| | *2009-10* | *2010-11*[2] |
| User payments | 330.7 | 57.3 |
| Admin | 9.3 | 1.5 |
| Total | 340.0 | 58.8 |

[1] Figures are for Great Britain.
[2] Figures are for the first two months of 2010-11.
*Source:*
Independent living fund

## Social Security Benefits: Shepway

**Damian Collins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in the Shepway district were in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* incapacity benefit and income support paid on incapacity grounds in each year since 1997; and how many such people were in receipt of employment support allowance in each year since the allowance was introduced. [3757]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is as follows:

*Benefit claimants in Shepway local authority as at November each year, 1997-2009*

| | *Disability living allowance* | *Jobseeker's allowance* | *Incapacity benefit/ severe disablement allowance* | *Income supports incapacity* | *Employment and support allowance* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 3,100 | 2,500 | 4,500 | 1,200 | — |
| 1998 | 3,200 | 2,300 | 4,500 | 1,400 | — |
| 1999 | 3,300 | 1,930 | 4,340 | 2,290 | — |
| 2000 | 3,700 | 1,650 | 4,380 | 2,350 | — |
| 2001 | 3,800 | 1,340 | 4,450 | 2,380 | — |
| 2002 | 4,160 | 1,320 | 4,440 | 2,380 | — |
| 2003 | 4,460 | 1,320 | 4,530 | 2,120 | — |
| 2004 | 4,790 | 1,320 | 4,730 | 2,140 | — |
| 2005 | 4,940 | 1,560 | 4,620 | 2,090 | — |
| 2006 | 5,130 | 1,680 | 4,520 | 2,080 | — |
| 2007 | 5,430 | 1,360 | 4,520 | 2,120 | — |
| 2008 | 5,690 | 1,810 | 4,370 | 2,090 | 70 |

*Benefit claimants in Shepway local authority as at November each year, 1997-2009*

| | Disability living allowance | Jobseeker's allowance | Incapacity benefit/ severe disablement allowance | Income support-incapacity | Employment and support allowance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 6,070 | 2,510 | 3,850 | 1,890 | 750 |

*100% data:*

*Notes:*

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Disability Living Allowance data show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. 100% data are used for November 1999 to November 2009 (except Disability Living Allowance for which they are used for November 2002 to November 2009), due to 100% data only being available from August 1999 (except Disability Living Allowance where the 100% data are available from May 2002).
4. Data for Jobseeker's Allowance and Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance/Employment and Support Allowance include credit only cases.
5. "—" denotes not applicable.
6. There will be an overlap in these figures as claimants receiving more than one of these benefits will be counted under each benefit.
7. Income Support Incapacity - claimant receives Income Support and Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

*5% data:*

*Notes:*

1. Caseloads have been derived by applying 5% proportions to 100% totals and are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. 5% data are used for November 1997 to November 1998 (except Disability Living Allowance for which they are used for November 1997 to November 2001).
3. Data for Jobseeker's Allowance and Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance include credit only cases.
4. "—" denotes not applicable.
5. There will be an overlap in these figures as claimants receiving more than one of these benefits will be counted under each benefit.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) Information Directorate, 5% samples.

### UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Miss Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to implement the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities; and what progress his Department has made in removing its reservation to the convention concerning legal capacity. [3570]

**Maria Miller:** This Government are committed to the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, and to using it as a driver to achieve equality for disabled people.

The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) is co-ordinating implementation, monitoring and reporting across Government and the Devolved Administrations to ensure they are aware of the need to take the convention into account in developing policies—and that they involve disabled people and their organisations in doing so. The ODI itself is engaging with disabled people and their organisations to raise awareness, and to learn about their expectations of the convention.

The ODI is also working with the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Scottish Human Rights Commission, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, which have been designated as the independent framework that will promote the convention and monitor how the UK and Devolved Administrations implement it.

In respect of the reservation entered on Article 12.4, the Department of Work and Pensions has made good progress in developing a review process for benefit appointees—a group affected by Article 12.4 of the convention. This is a major undertaking because there are close to 900,000 DWP customers with appointees.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Apprentices

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged *(a)* 16 to 18 and *(b)* 19 years and over have (i) started and (ii) completed a (A) level 2, (B) level 3 and (C) level 4 apprenticeship in each of the last five years. [3450]

**Mr Hayes:** Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts by level and age in England for 2004-05 to 2008-09, the latest year for which full year data are available.

Table 2 shows the number of apprenticeship framework achievements by level and age in England for 2004-05 to 2008-09, the latest year for which full year data are available.

*Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by level and age, 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| | Apprenticeships (Level 2) | | | Advanced apprenticeships (Level 3) | | | Higher level apprenticeships (Level 4) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 16-18 | 19 and over | Total | 16-18 | 19 and over | Total | 16-18 | 19 and over | Total |
| 2004-05 | 87,600 | 47,500 | 135,100 | 25,900 | 28,000 | 53,900 | — | — | — |
| 2005-06 | 77,100 | 45,700 | 122,800 | 22,400 | 29,700 | 52,100 | — | — | — |
| 2006-07 | 80,800 | 46,600 | 127,400 | 24,800 | 32,100 | 56,900 | — | — | 100 |
| 2007-08 | 82,000 | 69,800 | 151,800 | 25,500 | 47,400 | 72,900 | — | — | 100 |
| 2008-09 | 74,200 | 84,300 | 158,500 | 25,100 | 56,100 | 81,300 | — | 100 | 200 |

*Source:*

Individualised Learner Record

*Table 2: Apprenticeship framework achievements by level and age, 2004-05 to 2008-09*

| | *Apprenticeships (Level 2)* | | | *Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3)* | | | *Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *16-18* | *19 and over* | *Total* | *16-18* | *19 and over* | *Total* | *16-18* | *19 and over* | *Total* |
| 2004-05 | 30,400 | 17,900 | 48,400 | 9,800 | 9,100 | 18,900 | — | — | — |
| 2005-06 | 45,000 | 25,300 | 70,300 | 14,000 | 14,400 | 28,400 | — | — | — |
| 2006-07 | 50,100 | 28,300 | 78,400 | 15,600 | 17,900 | 33,400 | — | — | — |
| 2007-08 | 47,100 | 29,300 | 76,300 | 16,200 | 20,000 | 36,200 | — | — | — |
| 2008-09 | 50,200 | 48,000 | 98,100 | 17,500 | 27,700 | 45,200 | — | — | — |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. '—' Indicates a base figure of less than 50.
3. Figures are based on age at start of programme. Figures for the 16-18 age category includes a small number of learners aged under 16 years.

*Source:*
Individualised Learner Record

This Government are committed to increasing the number of apprenticeships, in particular, advanced and higher apprenticeships. British employers currently face a work force with insufficient skills at intermediate technician and associate professional level, critical to many industries of the future. Expanding Level 3 and Level 4 apprenticeships will make a significant contribution to remedying the shortage of people with this level of qualification.

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to assist companies to offer apprenticeships. [3788]

**Mr Hayes:** We are determined to make it easier for companies to take on apprentices so that more businesses can access the tremendous benefits they can bring to the workplace. That is why we are redirecting £150 million of Train to Gain in 2010-11 to create an additional 50,000 high quality employer-led places.

We are committed to increasing the number of genuine, high-quality, employer owned apprenticeships based on real jobs in the workplace, and are working with Sector Skills Councils to ensure that our apprenticeship frameworks meet the needs of the real economy.

We are also working to reduce bureaucracy and make the system simpler for employers, colleges, and learners alike. My ambition is no less than to build a system that facilitates more apprenticeships in England than we have ever seen before.

### Apprentices and Work Experience

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of apprenticeships, work pairings and training placements in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* Tamworth constituency. [3795]

**Mr Hayes:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is seeking to drive up the skills levels of the work force by directing public funding where it will bring the clearest benefits. As we stated in the coalition agreement, we will seek ways to support the creation of apprenticeships, internships, work pairings, and college and workplace training places as part of our wider programme to get Britain working.

We have begun to rebalance skills provision by redeploying £150 million of Train to Gain funding to create 50,000 high-quality, employer-led apprenticeship places. We are also taking action to set colleges and training organisations free from excessive bureaucracy and direct state control, to give them the freedom to respond better to local needs.

### Cumbria University

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the Minister of State for Universities has *(a)* met, *(b)* spoken on the telephone and *(c)* corresponded with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cumbria since his appointment. [3169]

**Mr Davey** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* The Secretary of State wrote to all vice chancellors in England, including Professor Graham Upton, interim vice chancellor of the university of Cumbria, on 26 May 2010, regarding the Government's plans to make £6 billon savings this year. A letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* front-line and *(b)* other staff were employed by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in the latest year for which figures are available; and what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of employing staff of each type at each of those bodies. [529]

**Mr Davey:** The latest figures published by the Office of National Statistics for Q4 2009 show total BIS staff numbers at 4,100 which includes 353 BIS staff in regional offices that are not paid by BIS. These figures are not yet broken down by frontline and other staff. The pay costs of employing BIS staff for 2009-10 was £186 million.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office, the Intellectual Property Office and the Skills Funding Agency and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 22 June 2010:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO) (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 26 May 2010 2010/39 to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many a) front line and b) other staff were employed by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in the latest year for which figures are available; and what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of employing staff of each type at each of those bodies.

NMO employed 21 FTE front line staff at a cost of £933,222, and 43 other FTE staff at a cost of £2,361,778 in 2009/10.

*Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 21 June 2010:*

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 26 May (UIN 529), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning numbers and costs of employing frontline and other staff in the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on 1 April 2010. Staff numbers and estimated costs for Skills Funding Agency 2010-2011 are as follows:

| | *FTE* | *Payroll costs (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| Staff employed and charged to the programme budget (includes ESF funding)[1] | 834 | 42.0 |
| Other staff employed by the Skills Funding Agency and charged to the Skills Funding Agency's budget | 944 | 50.2 |
| Staff employed by Skills Funding Agency and seconded to RDAs | 32 | 1.8 |
| Staff employed by Skills Funding Agency within the shared service whose costs are funded by the YPLA (Department for Education) | 46 | 2.2 |
| Total | 1,856 | 96.2 |

[1] Staff employed and charged to the programme budget are those we classify as front line staff

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 3 June 2010:*

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how many (a) front-line and (b) other staff were employed by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in the latest year for which figures are available; and what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of employing staff of each type at each of those bodies.

The total number of staff employed by The Insolvency Service as at March 2010 numbered 3,125 split between front-line services at 2,817 and other 308.

In 2009-10, some 27% of The Insolvency Service's costs were met by the public purse, with the remainder being met from fee income. The front-line staff working in those activities funded from the public purse totalled 517, at a total cost of £15.5m. It is only possible to estimate the other staff numbers and costs as they are not allocated directly to public purse and non-public purse funded activities. We estimate that out of "other", some 61 staff at £3.3m cost would have been funded from the public purse.

*Letter from John Alty, dated 2 June 2010:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 26 May 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) was established as a Trading Fund to provide services to rights holders. There were an average of 913 full time equivalents (FTEs) working for the Office in 2009/10. All of these costs were met by fees from users at no cost to the public purse.

In line with its Executive Agency and Trading Fund status, the IPO is required to produce a set of Annual Report & Accounts, included in which, are its people costs. The latest set of accounts can be found at:

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/ourpublications-review.htm

*Letter from Gareth Jones:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 26 May 2010, UIN 529, to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House was established as a Trading Fund to provide services to the general public. There was an average of 1063 full time equivalents (FTEs) working for the Agency in 2009/10. All of these costs were met by fees from users at no cost to the public purse.

In line with its Executive Agency and Trading Fund status, Companies House is required to produce a set of Annual Report and Accounts, which includes its people costs. The Annual Report and Accounts for 2009/10 will be laid before Parliament prior to the summer recess.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to analyse the distributional effect of the options for reductions in his Department's expenditure. [2860]

**Mr Davey:** The Government set out in their document "Spending Review Framework" that they will

> "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions."

(2.4, page 7)

Further information will be available at the spending review.

### Fossil Fuels: Export Credit Guarantees

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Export Credits Guarantee Department is taking to end support for fossil fuel projects. [3744]

**Mr Prisk:** Plans have not yet been developed, including considering the practical implications taking account of ECGD's powers and duties under its statute, to implement the coalition Government's agreement that ECGD and UKTI should become champions for British companies that develop and export innovative green technologies around the world, instead of supporting investment in dirty fossil-fuel energy production.

ECGD has not supported a coal-fired power station since 2002; were it to consider doing so, it would apply the 'OECD Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits' which addresses the environmental impact of projects supported and requires compliance with international standards, usually those of the World Bank Group. Meanwhile, ECGD is participating on behalf of the UK in negotiations to agree export credit terms and conditions within the OECD that will encourage the use of low carbon goods and services.

*Fossil fuel projects*[1]

| *Country* | *UK exporter* | *Project* | *Original level of support provided (£)* | *Liability start date (est)* | *Contract completion date (est)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indonesia | NEI Power Projects Ltd | Combined cycle power plant | 36,647,273 | December 1994 | December 2001 |
| Indonesia | Allen Power Engineering Ltd | Power station extension. Supply and installation of 11 diesel generating sets | 18,955,088 | December 1997 | December 2000 |
| Turkey | Allen Power Engineering Ltd | Bilkent | 6,799,523 | October 1998 | September 1999 |
| Venezuela | [2] | Oil and gas project | 50,668,873 | [2]— | [2]— |
| Philippines | ABN Amro Bank NV | San Lorenzo—500MW gas power station at Batangas | 44,382,802 | March 2000 | September 2015 |
| Dominican Republic | Motherwell Bridge Engineering Ltd | San Pedro—Conversion of oil power station to gas-fired power station | 15,783,542 | April 2000 | February 2002 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Skanska Construction UK Ltd | Tabas coalmine | 29,524,244 | March 2001 | June 2005 |
| Algeria | Siemens Industrial Turbomachinery Ltd | Supply of pumping and generating sets for the OZ2 pipeline | 22,282,064 | October 2001 | October 2003 |
| Brazil | Man B & W Diesel Ltd | 4 x diesel generating sets | 6,884,401 | November 2001 | December 2002 |
| Israel | Alstom Power Ltd | Refurbishment of existing power station. Low emission boiler and converter | 7,094,427 | March 2002 | October 2003 |
| Turkey | Alstom Power Plants Ltd | 2 x 160 MLO power station | 7,262,428 | April 2002 | February 2004 |
| Nigeria | M W Kellog Ltd | LNG project. Addition of trains 4 and 5 to existing LNG plant | 119,033,808 | December 2002 | September 2005 |
| Algeria | Siemens Industrial Turbomachinery Ltd | Supply of turbine generator sets for the OZ2 pipeline | 23,061,936 | September 2003 | September 2005 |
| Brazil | Diamond Offshore Drilling (UK) Ltd | P52 oil platform. Drilling offshore exploration wells/charter of an offshore drilling unit | 42,767,276 | January 2004 | February 2004 |
| Azerbaijan | BP Exploration (Caspian Sea) Ltd | BTC pipeline project | 56,354,403 | February 2004 | August 2006 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Salzgitter Mannesmann (UK) Ltd | South Pars Phases 9 and 10. Steel-related products for the downstream development of a gas field | 12,630,693 | July 2004 | July 2008 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Man Ltd | South Pars Phases 9 and 10. Mechanical, piping and electrical engineering equipment for the downstream development of a gas field | 32,529,092 | July 2004 | July 2008 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Doncasters Middle East Ltd | Provision of services and tooling to refurbish turbine generator blaes | 14,373,935 | August 2004 | March 2006 |
| Kazakhstan | Kellogg Brown & Root | Ali Bekmoia oil field development | 6,839,754 | November 2004 | December 2004 |
| Mexico | Odebrecht Oil and Gas Services Ltd | Living quarters on oil platform | 6,189,505 | November 2004 | December 2004 |
| Brazil | INVSAT Ltd | P52 oil platform: Telecommunications | 1,318,153 | October 2005 | October 2007 |
| Brazil | Koch Chemical Technology Group Ltd | P52 oil platform: Vacuum deaeration equipment | 2,099,502 | October 2005 | October 2007 |
| Brazil | Rolls Royce Power Engineering plc | P52 oil platform: Power generation equipment | 26,695,937 | October 2005 | October 2007 |
| Brazil | VWS Westgarth Ltd | P52 oil platform: Sulphate reduction equipment | 6,488,282 | October 2005 | October 2007 |
| Korea (Republic of) | Alstom Power Conversion Ltd | Shin Wolsuing power station | 1,127,299 | January 2006 | January 2009 |
| Turkey | Brush Electrical Machines Ltd | 50MW generators sets | 684,163 | March 2006 | May 2006 |

*Fossil fuel projects*[1]

| Country | UK exporter | Project | Original level of support provided (£) | Liability start date (est) | Contract completion date (est) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico | SLP Engineering Ltd | KMZ oil field platform: Accommodation platforms | 12,468,774 | June 2006 | January 2008 |
| Nigeria | GENTEC Energy plc | 5MW gas-fired power plant | 7,891,229 | May 2008 | June 2009 |
| Nigeria | GENTEC Energy plc | 12.75MW power station and gas plant | 13,669,924 | September 2008 | September 2009 |
| Russian Federation | Rolls Royce plc | Portovaya compressor station: Compressors and related equipment for the Nordstream pipeline | 376,450,274 | May 2010 | June 2011 |

[1] Includes oil and gas transportation, coal, oil and gas extractions, power generation and energy exports that involve the use of fossil fuel. Excludes petrochemical projects.

[2] Information withheld to protect the commercial interests of the company and ECGD.

### Insolvency: North West

**Esther McVey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much grant debt the Government Office for the North West has written off as a result of those in receipt of grants entering company voluntary agreements since 2005. [3793]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government Office for the North West has written off no grant debt in this way.

**Esther McVey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which not-for-profit companies have had debts written off by the Government Office for the North West as a result of entering company voluntary agreements since 2005; and what sum was written off in each case. [3794]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government Office for the North West has written off no debt in this way.

### Northwest Regional Development Agency

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the North West Development Agency has allocated to each project it supported in each of the last five years; and what allocations it plans to make to which projects in 2010-11. [3836]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the accountability and financial framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the regional economic strategy and their corporate plans. The Department does not hold details of individual projects supported by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

No final decisions have been made on how projects currently delivered by NWDA will be affected by the £270 million savings we are seeking from RDAs' budgets. We will be writing to RDAs about the allocation shortly. We will then work with the RDA network to minimise the impact on priority programmes. Stakeholders and delivery partners involved in affected programmes and projects will be kept fully informed as specific decisions are made.

### Peru: EU External Trade

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the suspension of EU free trade agreement negotiations with Peru; and if he will make a statement. [3855]

**Mr Prisk:** Negotiations for the EU—Andean (Peru and Colombia) free trade agreement have not been suspended. Negotiations were concluded in March 2010, and the agreement is likely to enter into force in late 2011.

### Post Office: ICT

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from the Justice for Subpostmasters Alliance in the last 12 months; if he will meet representatives of the Alliance to discuss the Post Office's Horizon system; and if he will make a statement. [3752]

**Mr Davey:** Given Post Office Ltd's responsibility for negotiating contractual terms and conditions with sub-postmasters, I have asked David Smith, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Post Offices

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the community network of Post Office Ltd and the social network of Post Office Ltd are identical in their *(a)* membership and *(b)* operation; and if he will make a statement. [3675]

**Mr Davey:** The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices in delivering services of general economic interest in the communities they serve. To assist with this the Government are committed to continuing to make a social network payment of £180 million to support the network in 2011-12, subject to state aid clearance from the European Commission. The Government are working with Post Office Ltd on funding requirements for the network beyond 2012.

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether Post Office Ltd has completed its review of the Code of Practice governing changes to the post office network. [3676]

**Mr Davey:** The review of the Code of Practice governing changes to the post office network is a matter jointly for Post Office Ltd and Consumer Focus.

I have therefore asked David Smith, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what powers Consumer Focus has to review post office closures under the Network Change programme. [3677]

**Mr Davey:** Under the 2007-08 Network Change programme, Postwatch, a predecessor body to Consumer Focus, had an important role, set out in a memorandum of understanding with Post Office Ltd, in assessing the company's initial area plan closure proposals prior to publication, in monitoring the local public consultation process and in reviewing responses to the consultation and final closure decisions.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment has been made of the likely effects on the Post Office branch network of the proposed part-privatisation of Royal Mail. [3769]

**Mr Davey:** Government recognise and value the important social and economic role played by post offices in communities throughout the UK and we will be assessing any impacts on the network of legislation to allow the injection of private capital into Royal Mail. We do not want to see a repeat of the network closure programmes operated under the previous Government.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will ensure that the size of the Post Office branch network is not reduced. [3772]

**Mr Davey:** The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices in the communities they serve and has made clear it will not repeat the closure programmes of the previous Government. We are also committed to making a social network payment of £180 million to support the network at around its present size in 2011-12, subject to state aid clearance from the European Commission.

## Postal Services

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the future of the Royal Mail universal service obligation. [3771]

**Mr Davey:** The Coalition Government are committed to the ongoing provision of the universal service. We want to safeguard the future of Royal Mail so that its employees have a secure future and customers and businesses continue to have a universal service they can depend on.

## Regional Development Agencies

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment has been made of whether proposed changes to regional development agencies in 2009-10 will affect the recently-introduced system of planning and commissioning of 16-18 education. [1665]

**Mr Gibb:** I have been asked to reply.

The Coalition Government set out its position on the future of regional development agencies (RDAs) in its programme for Government 'Freedom Fairness Responsibility'. They said they will support the creation of local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) to replace RDAs and that these may take the form of existing RDAs where they are popular. The Government will announce further information on their proposals in due course.

From 1 April 2010 the responsibility to provide education and training provision for 16 to 19-year-olds (and for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to the age of 25) passed to local authorities. Local authorities will continue to work with a range of local and regional stakeholders in delivering this responsibility.

## Royal Mail

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have discussions with trade unions on a potential stock market flotation in respect of Royal Mail. [3779]

**Mr Davey:** I had an initial meeting with representatives of the Communication Workers Union on the 7 June regarding our plans for an injection of private sector capital into Royal Mail announced in the Queen's speech. I see this as the first meeting in a continuing dialogue with BIS Ministers and officials as Government develops its plans.

## Royal Mail: Pensions

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with Royal Mail and others on ownership of the Royal Mail Pension Fund after the proposed part-privatisation of Royal Mail. [3770]

**Mr Davey:** The Royal Mail Pension Plan (RMPP) is an occupational pension plan run by a board of Trustees with an independent Chair and with Royal Mail as the sponsoring employer.

The Government announced its plans for an injection of private sector capital into Royal Mail in the Queen's speech. While further details of this policy are still being worked up prior to introduction of the proposed legislation, we do not currently anticipate any changes to the governance of the RMPP or its relationship to Royal Mail.

### Space Technology: Finance

**Harriett Baldwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what budget his Department has set for space exploration in each of the next three years. [3058]

**Mr Willetts:** The UK Space Agency exploration budget contributes to the European Space Agency's ExoMars programme. The UK subscription is composed of €14 million per annum direct to the ExoMars programme for the next three years to cover spacecraft costs, and £5.4 million to the associated national programme, also for the next three years, to cover the costs of UK instruments, UK science support and the UK public outreach programme.

### St George's Day

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the effect on the economy of establishing an additional bank holiday on St George's Day. [3799]

**Mr Davey:** The Government have not made an estimate of the impact on the economy for establishing St George's day as an additional bank holiday, as the current pattern of bank holidays are well established and accepted.

### Student Loans Company

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times he and the new head of the Student Loans Company have *(a)* met, *(b)* spoken by telephone and *(c)* corresponded since his appointment. [2950]

**Mr Willetts:** Professor Sir Deian Hopkin was appointed by Ministers as interim Chair of the Student Loans Company on 25 May; Ed Lester was appointed interim Chief Executive by the Board of the Student Loans Company on 28 May.

Since that time, I and my ministerial colleagues have spoken to both Sir Deian and Mr Lester on a number of occasions.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met Mr Lester on 1 June when he visited the Student Loans Company in Glasgow.

I met both Sir Deian and Mr Lester during my visit to the Student Loans Company in Darlington on 17 June.

### Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement of 24 May 2010 and pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 69W, on public expenditure: Wales, which of his Department's non-devolved public expenditure savings will be incurred in Wales; and what estimate he has made of the financial savings. [2967]

**Mr Davey:** In relation to its non devolved expenditure, the Department does not have details of the public expenditure savings that it will make in Wales or any estimate of the financial savings it will make in Wales.

## EDUCATION

### Academies

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will visit the head office of the Academies Enterprise Trust to discuss the value for money achieved from the use of funding provided by his Department to the Trust. [349]

**Mr Gibb:** The Secretary of State has no current plans to visit the Academies Enterprise Trust. All academy trusts (which includes charitable trusts running more than one academy) are required to publish annual accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. The Department expects all academies to provide value for money from taxpayer funds. The accounts of academies are open to officials from the Department or the National Audit Office for inspection or the carrying out of value for money studies at any time.

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will amend the funding agreements for academy schools to enable them to be run by profit-making companies. [1207]

**Mr Gibb:** As with all existing academies, the Government will enter funding agreements with, and provide funding to, an academy trust, which will be a charitable company limited by guarantee and which will not be profit making.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to write to the governors at schools he has invited to apply for academy status. [1701]

**Mr Gibb:** A letter from the Secretary of State to head teachers and chairs of governing bodies was emailed to all schools on 26 May setting out the opportunity to apply for academy status. A decision to apply for academy status needs to be formally approved by the governing body.

### Academies: Sevenoaks

**Michael Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has allocated for the construction of the Knole Academy in Sevenoaks; and when he expects construction to commence. [1376]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 8 June 2010]:* Present plans are for the Knole Academy to have a proposed construction capital expenditure figure of £24.5 million, with construction of the academy scheduled to start during the summer of 2011.

### Building Schools for the Future Programme

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the Building Schools for the Future programme in Redcar; and if he will make a statement. [3160]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* The Department is currently reviewing the Building Schools for the Future programme to ensure that we can build schools more effectively and more cost-efficiently in the future.

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much funding he plans to allocate to the new school building at Leeds West Academy; [3184]

(2) how much funding he plans to allocate to the new school building at Farnley Park High School. [3185]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* The Department is currently reviewing the Building Schools for the Future programme to ensure that we can build schools more effectively and more cost-efficiently in the future.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what criteria he plans to use to decide which projects in the Building Schools for the Future programme will proceed; [3188]

(2) when he expects to make an announcement on whether the Building Schools for the Future programme in Warrington will proceed. [3189]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* The Department is currently reviewing the Building Schools for the Future programme to ensure that we can build schools more effectively and more cost-efficiently in the future.

## Children in Care: GCE A-level

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in local authority care obtained one or more A-levels in *(a)* Wigan, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [1757]

**Tim Loughton:** Information on A-level attempts and achievements of looked after children is not available.

## Children in Care: GCSE

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in local authority care were awarded five A* to C grades at GCSE in *(a)* Wigan, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [1758]

**Tim Loughton:** The number of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE or any GNVQ equivalent in each year from 2005-09 can be found in the following Statistical First Releases (SFRs):

*Statistical First Releases*

| *Year* | *Title* | *URL* | *Table* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | Outcome Indicators for Looked-after Children, Twelve months to 30 September 2005—England | http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000651/index.shtml | National figures—Table C |
| 2006 | Outcome Indicators for Looked-after Children, Twelve months to 30 September 2006—England | http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000727/index.shtml | National figures—Table C<br>LA figures—Table 5 |
| 2007 | Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England | http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml | National figures—Table C<br>LA figures—Table 5 |
| 2008 | Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2008—England | http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000842/index.shtml | National figures—Table C<br>LA figures—Table 5 |
| 2009 | Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2009—England | http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000930/index.shtml | National figures—Table C1<br>LA figures—Table 4 |

These figures are based on the OC2 return which, up to 2008, collected information on Key Stage 4 attainment in GCSE and GNVQ equivalents only. As of November/December 2010, attainment of looked after children will be reported on in a new SFR based on data matched from the National Pupil Database (NPD) to the Children Looked After database (based on the SSDA903 return). This matched dataset will allow us to report on Key Stage 4 attainment of looked after children at GCSE or any equivalent level, bringing the figures into line with those for all children.

In 2009, figures were also collected in the OC2 return on Key Stage 4 attainment at GCSE or any equivalent. These figures were collected on a voluntary basis, with data returned by 127 of 152 LAs. The figures can be found in the following SFR:

*Statistical First Releases*

| *Year* | *Title* | *URL* | *Table* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009 | Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2009—England | http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000930/index.shtml | National figures—Table C2<br>LA figures—Table 5 |

### Children in Care: Wigan

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people under the age of 18 years are in local authority care in Wigan constituency. [1759]

**Tim Loughton:** Information on looked after children is not available at constituency level.

### Children: Databases

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he and his Ministerial colleagues have had with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* other stakeholders on the future of ContactPoint. [1219]

**Tim Loughton:** We have confirmed with local authorities and other partners our firm intention to end the ContactPoint database as soon as practicable. Both coalition partners' manifestos included a clear commitment to scrap ContactPoint, to fulfil a longstanding policy commitment, discussed with a wide range of interested organisations in recent years. We have consistently opposed a database, which contains details about all children in England, accessed by hundreds of thousands of people and signalled our opposition in debates on the original legislation in the 2004 Children Act.

We will consider the scope for a more proportionate approach to protecting children most in need and will continue to engage our partners as we take the work forward.

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the savings to be made as a result of his Department's decision to end the ContactPoint database in each of the next five financial years. [1940]

**Tim Loughton:** We have made clear our firm intention to end the ContactPoint database as soon as practicable. As we do so, we intend to consider the scope for a more proportionate approach to protecting the most vulnerable children. We shall make a further announcement shortly. The impact on the Department's existing expenditure plans will be determined in the light of those decisions.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many full-time equivalent staff at each Civil Service grade are employed in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [126]

**Tim Loughton:** Details of the number of full-time staff employed at each Civil Service grade in each Minister's office are as follows:

| | *Grade 5* | *Grade 6* | *Grade 7* | *Higher executive officer* | *Executive officer* | *Executive assistant* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Michael Gove | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Sarah Teather | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Nick Gibb | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Jonathan Hill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1.7 |
| Tim Loughton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

The Department has fewer Ministers and fewer staff than under the previous administration.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many Government *(a)* cars and *(b)* drivers are allocated to Ministers in his Department. [292]

**Tim Loughton:** Under the arrangements inherited from Ministers in the previous Government, the current interim arrangements for the Department for Education are *(a)* five cars and *(b)* five drivers allocated to Departmental Ministers. This is supplemented by the use of pool cars as needed.

The new Ministerial Code, published on 21 May 2010, contains changes that affect Ministerial entitlement to travel by Government car. It states that

> "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed".

The Ministerial Code, published on 21 May 2010, is available on the Cabinet Office website.

The Department for Education is working with the Department for Transport and its Government Car and Despatch Agency to effect the transition to new arrangements.

### Departmental Public Appointments

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* political appointments and *(b)* other personal appointments he has made since his appointment; and at what estimated annual cost to the public purse. [374]

**Tim Loughton:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, on 3 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 99W.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the education maintenance allowance. [1668]

**Mr Gibb:** I can confirm that the education maintenance allowance (EMA) will be paid in full this year.

### Education Maintenance Allowance: Redcar

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many individuals in Redcar constituency are in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [3542]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

### Education: Finance

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what grants in what amounts his Department has made to local authorities in 2010-11; and whether each such grant is ring-fenced for a specific purpose. [1205]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 7 June 2010]:* Details including the amounts of the grants that the Department for Education will be making available to local authorities in 2010-11 are set out in the following table. The table also sets out which grants will be ringfenced.

*Specific Revenue and Capital Grants: 2010/11*

| *Revenue Grants* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Dedicated Schools Grant[1] | 30,817.1 |
| School Development Grant (schools element)[1] | 1,980.6 |
| Ethnic Minority Achievement[1] | 203.0 |
| School Lunch Grant[1] | 77.3 |
| Targeted Support for Primary and Secondary Strategy[1] | 276.6 |
| Music Grant[1] | 82.6 |
| Playing For Success[1] | 13.0 |
| School Standards (including personalisation)[1] | 1,590.9 |
| 1-2-1 Tuition (formerly Making Good Progress)[1] | 246.6 |
| London Pay Addition Grant[1] | 27.7 |
| Early Years: Flexibility of Free Entitlement for 3-4 Year Olds[1] | 340.0 |
| Extended Schools—Sustainability[1] | 189.5 |
| Extended Schools—Subsidy[1] | 166.9 |
| Prospectus and Common Application Process[1] | 1.7 |
| Youth Opportunity Fund | 40.8 |
| Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare[1] | 1,594.0 |
| Contact Point[1] | 15.0 |
| Short Breaks -Aiming High for Disabled Children[1] | 183.0 |
| Targeted Mental Health in Schools Grant[1] | 27.6 |
| Two Year Old Offer- Early Learning and Childcare[1] | 66.8 |
| Think Family Grant | 94.1 |
| Youth Crime Action Plan | 12.1 |
| Challenge and Support Funding | 3.9 |
| TOTAL | 38,050.6 |
| | |
| *Capital Grants* | |
| 14-19 Capital Fund[1] | 3.3 |
| Building Schools for the Future[1] | 2,421.0 |
| Aiming High Capital Grant (formerly part of Children's Plan)[1] | 52.5 |
| Devolved Formula Capital (devolved to LA schools)[1] | 571.7 |
| Extended Schools[1] | 21.0 |
| Harnessing Technology Grant and Other ICT[1] | 200.9 |
| LA Basic Need[1] | 399.2 |
| LA Modernisation | 227.6 |
| Locally Coordinated VA Programme[1] | 166.8 |
| Primary Capital Programme[1] | 893.4 |
| Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Capital grant[1] | 315.0 |
| Schools Access Initiative[1] | 95.5 |
| Targeted Capital Fund[1] | 305.7 |
| Fair Play Pathfinders | 9.3 |
| Fair Play Playbuilders | 65.7 |
| Youth Capital Fund[1] | 26.5 |
| Young People Secure Accommodation Grant[1] | 19.8 |
| TOTAL | 5,795.0 |

[1] Ring-fenced for 2010/11.

*Note:*

Figures will be updated shortly to take account of the latest pupil numbers.

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education from which of his Department's grants to local authorities ring fences will be removed as indicated in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement of 24 May 2010. [1223]

**Mr Gibb:** To increase local authorities flexibility over the use of their resources the Department of Education will be removing the ring fence in 2010-11 from the following grants to local authorities:

Think Family Grant
Youth Opportunity Fund
Youth Crime Action Plan Grant
Challenge and Support Funding
Fair Play Pathfinders Capital
Fair Play Playbuilders Capital

### Education: Wigan

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education for which public spending projects in *(a)* Wigan constituency and *(b)* the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan his Department secured Treasury approval between 1 January 2010 and the date of his appointment as Secretary of State. [1753]

**Mr Gibb:** In the period in question there were no capital projects in Wigan constituency or the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan for which the Department sought or obtained Treasury approval.

### Free School Meals

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will reverse the decision not to extend the free school meals pilot scheme. [3421]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* The decision not to extend the free school meals pilot scheme was taken to protect frontline school budgets and we have no plans to reverse the decision at this time. We are continuing to support the existing free school meal pilots in Durham, Newham and Wolverhampton, the evaluation of which will provide evidence to help us assess better the case for extending eligibility for free school meals in future.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effects on low income families of the decision not extend the free school meals pilot scheme. [3422]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* All pupils who meet the current eligibility criteria will continue to receive free school meals.

The Government also continue to support reducing child poverty in other ways, and will be producing their child poverty strategy this year to ensure that the routes into poverty are tackled and that children's life chances are improved. Given the current financial climate, it is right to focus schools' budgets on the Government priority of raising attainment, which is key to improving their life chances.

The Government are continuing to assess the case for extending free school meals, which is why we are continuing the pilots currently under way in Newham, Durham and Wolverhampton. We await their evaluation to see what lessons we can learn.

### Further Education: Finance

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has allocated to further education colleges for 16 to 18 learning in *(a)* financial year 2010-11 and *(b)* each of the last five financial years. [2269]

**Mr Gibb:** Planned funding for 16 to 18 FE providers (including E2E provision that will be subsumed into foundation learning) will be £4,000 million in 2010-11. Equivalent funding for the previous five years is shown in the following table.

*£ million*

| *Financial year* | *FE* | *E2E* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2009-10 (est. outturn) | 3,559 | 223 | 3,782 |
| 2008-09 | 3,299 | 169 | 3,468 |
| 2007-08 | 3,165 | 175 | 3,340 |
| 2006-07 | 3,034 | 187 | 3,221 |
| 2005-06 | 2,761 | 222 | 2,983 |

### Grandparents: Contact Orders

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to review the provisions of the Children Act 1989 relating to grandparents and extended kin and leave to make applications for contact; and if he will make a statement. [2931]

**Tim Loughton:** The Government are committed to reform of the family justice system, as set out in "The Coalition: our programme for government".

A Family Justice Review is already underway. We will ensure the review examines the system as a whole, including how best to support contact between children and grandparents. The Review is due to report in 2011. If changes are to be made to the family justice system in view of the Review, there will, of course, be a formal announcement.

### Literacy: Primary Education

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his most recent estimate is of the number of functionally illiterate 11 year olds; and what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of such children in each of the next five years. [3416]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* There is no specific measurement for 'functional illiteracy' in primary school children. However, in 2009 14% of 11-year-olds did not reach the expected level 4 or above in reading, and 32% in writing. The Government's aim is that no child who is capable of learning to read should leave primary education without a secure level of literacy. We will be seeking to strengthen the teaching of systematic synthetic phonics and encourage schools to adopt robust and well-evidenced approaches.

### National Curriculum Tests

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the system of standard assessment tests; and if he will make a statement. [2136]

**Mr Gibb:** We intend to review how key stage 2 National Curriculum tests will operate in future. We will maintain external assessment to ensure that all schools are accountable to parents and the tax payer.

### Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff presently working for the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency in Coventry he expects to transfer to his Department. [1413]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 8 June 2010]:* National curriculum tests will continue and the people supporting tests will therefore continue to be needed. Some other functions, such as support for the administration of examinations, will continue at least for the medium term, and again we will need to retain the people who work on these areas.

### Salford and Wigan Local Education Partnership

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the funding of Salford and Wigan Local Education Partnership; and if he will make a statement. [1756]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department has not taken any decisions on funding of schools capital programmes, including those being procured through joint local education partnerships. Any future rollout decisions will be announced in due course.

### School Meals

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidelines are in place for the provision of school meals to students with *(a)* kosher, *(b)* halal, *(c)* vegetarian, *(d)* vegan and *(e)* other dietary requirements. [1768]

**Mr Gibb:** Guidelines for providing school lunches to pupils with diverse diets and special dietary needs are provided in the School Food Trust's publication 'A guide to introducing the Government's food-based and nutrient-based standards for school lunches'. This publication is available on the Trust's website at:

www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/schools/resources/guide-to-the-nutrient-based-standards

### Schools: Crimes of Violence

**Angie Bray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what requirement applies to schools to inform the police when a criminal act involving the possession of a knife is committed on school property. [2538]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 15 June 2010]:* If school staff find and seize a knife they should promptly inform the police and must deliver it to them as soon as is reasonably practicable. Guidance on screening or searching for knives in-school in England was issued in 2007.

### Specialised Diplomas

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of diploma qualifications. [1666]

**Mr Gibb:** The Government announced on 7 June that all work on the development of the three academic diplomas in languages, humanities and science will stop.

The Department for Education will be looking at diplomas as part of work to improve the quality of vocational education currently provided to young people, as set out in the coalition agreement.

We have also announced savings that we will make by cutting back on all but essential diploma development.

### Teaching Methods

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has amended its budgetary provision for *(a)* Every Child a Reader, *(b)* Every Child a Writer and *(c)* Every Child Counts for 2010 following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement on spending plans of 24 May 2010. [1294]

**Mr Gibb:** £144 million was committed at the last comprehensive spending review (2008-11) to support Every Child Counts and Every Child a Reader. A further £25 million was allocated to the Every Child a Writer programme for 2008-11.

The Department for Education will spend £89 million this year on the Every Child programmes. We have been able to make savings of £5 million across all three programmes for 2010-11 through the identification of unallocated spending.

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what changes his Department has made to its budgetary provision for one-to-one tuition in 2010-11 as a consequence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement on spending plans of 24 May 2010. [1295]

**Mr Gibb:** The £256 million allocated to schools and local authorities for the provision of one-to-one tuition in 2010-11 is unaffected. Funding for schools has been protected and the Secretary of State has made clear that there will be no impact on the front-line provision of tuition.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's spending announcement of 24 May included from the one-to-one tuition budget £47 million which the Department has returned to the Treasury. This saving has been made from centrally held funding for one-to-one tuition which had not yet been allocated and for which no spending plans had been announced.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 126, on departmental manpower, *(b)* 292, on departmental official vehicles and *(c)* 374, on departmental public appointments, tabled on 25 May 2010. [3847]

**Tim Loughton:** A response has been issued to the hon. Member's questions today.

### Young People: Unemployment

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in Wigan constituency are not in education, employment or training. [1740]

**Mr Gibb:** The official estimates of participation in education, training and employment for those aged 16 to 18 are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June and can be found on the Department's website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml

These estimates cannot be broken down to sub-national levels.

However, Connexions Services collect information on the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET in each local authority area. Connexions information shows that 830 16 to 18-year-olds were NEET in the Wigan local authority area at the end of 2009, 7.1% of the 16 to 18-year-old population. The Connexions NEET data cannot be disaggregated to constituency level.

### Youth Opportunities and Youth Capital Funds

**Julie Hilling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether all local authorities will receive the previously agreed allocation of funding for the *(a)* Youth Opportunity Fund and *(b)* Youth Capital Fund for 2010-11. [2257]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 14 June 2010]*: The Government published details on 10 June 2010 of the £1.166 billion local government contribution to the £6.2 billion cross government savings in 2010-11. Following the announcement on 10 June, the Youth Opportunity Fund will be paid under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The removal of the ring fence will give local authorities more flexibility over their spending. The Department has not taken any decisions on the Youth Capital Fund. Any future decisions will be announced in due course.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 23 June 2010*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Council Housing: Bolton

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to write off local authority debt in respect of council housing in Bolton; and if he will make a statement. [3737]

**Andrew Stunell:** Bolton council is currently undertaking a formal statutory consultation and ballot of their tenants on a proposal to transfer their homes to a new landlord. My predecessor agreed that this transfer should proceed to consultation with tenants in a ministerial statement on 16 December. The transfer of homes would require housing debt to be transferred from local to central Government. I am content for this consultation to proceed.

### Council Housing: Construction

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Vauxhall (Kate Hoey) of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 368W, on council housing: construction, how much his Department contributed to local authorities from the National Affordable Housing Programme for the building of new homes in the last five financial years. [3881]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Homes and Communities Agency provided £97 million grant in 2009-10 to support local authorities build new council housing under the Local Authority New Build programme (a subset of the National Affordable Housing Programme). There was no direct support for new council housing in the previous four financial years.

### Councillors: Pay

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many remunerated councillors there are in each county. [3337]

**Robert Neill:** My Department does not hold this information.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council cabinet members receive remuneration; and how much each local authority has allocated for expenditure on such remuneration in 2010. [3338]

**Robert Neill:** My Department does not hold this information. Each council makes available locally for public inspection the allowances paid to each of their councillors. We are committed to ensuring that councillors' remuneration is published in a more open and standardised way to increase transparency.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3210]

**Robert Neill:** There are no individual, members of staff with Communities and Local Government who have a contractual right to the use of a car with a dedicated driver, a car from the Government car pool or a taxi ordered through a departmental account.

### Housing: Construction

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his policy is on setting minimum standards for space in the home for new residential housing developments; [3451]

(2) if he will re-introduce the Parker-Morris standards for space in the home in respect of new residential housing developments. [3452]

**Robert Neill:** The Government have not yet decided upon their detailed approach towards the issue of standards for new residential housing developments. It has, however, committed, in the Coalition Government document 'The Coalition: our programme for government', to publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities. We will set out how we intend to do this in due course. Our abolition of the minimum density target in the revised version of Planning Policy Statement 3 will, however, encourage the greater provision of family homes.

### Local Government Finance

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on proposals for local authorities to issue bonds to raise finance for infrastructure projects; and if he will make a statement. [3334]

**Robert Neill:** The Department has not received any recent representations on this issue. Under the prudential system local authorities are able to borrow for capital projects without Government consent, provided that they can afford the borrowing costs. Authorities are free to choose the source of these loans, and may borrow, should they wish to do so, by issuing bonds. The Government are committed to looking at how greater use could be made by authorities of this way of raising finance.

### Planning Permission

**Jacob Rees-Mogg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers planning authorities have to penalise persons who have proceeded with unauthorised developments in circumstances where it has been established that the developer was aware of the applicable regulations. [3426]

**Robert Neill:** Local planning authorities have a range of discretionary powers to deal with unauthorised development. Key among these is the issue of an enforcement notice, failure to comply with which is a criminal offence and may lead to prosecution in the courts. The penalty for non-compliance is a fine of up to £20,000 on summary conviction or an unlimited fine on conviction on indictment. In determining the amount of any fine to be imposed the court shall in particular have regard to any financial benefit which may have accrued or appears likely to accrue to the offender as a consequence of the offence.

### Social Rented Housing: Standards

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost of completing the Decent Homes programme in each year from 2011-12. [3886]

**Andrew Stunell:** The estimate of the cost of repairs backlog contained in the council housing finance consultation document is £3.2 billion. Funding for capital investments in council housing post 2010-11 will be decided in the spending review.

### Standards Board for England

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects the abolition of the Standards Board for England to take place; and if he will ensure that it is replaced by an effective system for dealing with complaints against members of local authorities. [3511]

**Robert Neill:** We will implement the commitment in our Programme for Government to abolish the Standards Board regime as soon as practicable, and intend to repeal the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 which established the Standards Board through our Bill to devolve greater powers to councils, announced in the Queen's speech for this session.

We are committed to the highest levels of standards of behaviour by local authority members and will ensure any devolved regime achieves this.

### Subsidence: Ironbridge Gorge

**David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will allocate funding to the land instability remediation works in the Ironbridge Gorge; and if he will make a statement. [3585]

**Robert Neill:** The allocation of departmental budgets for the whole Parliament will be decided in the spending review, which will be published in the autumn. Departments will then determine how to allocate their resources within their sectors.

**David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has completed its review of the Ironbridge Gorge Land Instability Report produced by Telford and Wrekin Council. [3586]

**Robert Neill:** My Department commissioned Advantage West Midlands to procure consultants (Wardell Armstrong) to verify the nature and scale of the land instability problems in the Ironbridge Gorge. My officials have completed the review of the consultants' report and the long term strategy for addressing the land instability issues in Ironbridge Gorge will be considered in the spending review, which will be published this autumn.

### Wind Power: Planning Permission

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to limit the maximum permissible height for wind turbines located near residential areas. [3630]

**Robert Neill:** We are currently considering proposals for permitted development rights for small scale renewable and low carbon energy technologies and the height limits that might apply, and will set out the next steps on permitted development rights shortly. Looking ahead, we will radically reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live, based on the principles set out in the Conservative party publication 'Open Source Planning'. In the Coalition Agreement the Government stated that they will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

### Working Neighbourhoods Fund

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects on local authorities with high levels of multiple deprivation of the reduction of funding allocated to the Working Neighbourhoods Fund announced on 10 June 2010. [3723]

**Robert Neill:** The Working Neighbourhoods Fund is paid as part of the Area Based Grant. All local authorities that are eligible for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund have received a reduction in their Area Based Grant funding. This ensures that councils have the flexibility to take decisions locally on how to deliver the savings needed.

Where revenue grants to local authorities have been reduced, no local authority will face a reduction of more than 2% overall. It is for local authorities to decide where their priorities and opportunities for efficiencies lie across the totality of their responsibilities.

## WALES

### Business Relocation

11. **Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on encouraging the relocation of businesses to Wales. [3044]

**Mr David Jones:** My right hon. Friend and I view encouraging investment into Wales as one of the key roles of the Wales Office and intend to promote this message across Government and elsewhere.

As I said in my earlier answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff North (Jonathan Evans) the Secretary of State has already discussed inward investment with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and we will both discuss it with other ministerial colleagues in the weeks and months to come.

### National Assembly for Wales

12. **Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what timetable has been set for the referendum on further law-making powers for the National Assembly for Wales. [3045]

**Mrs Gillan:** Subject to the approval of Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales, we are aiming for the referendum to be held by the end of the first quarter of next year. It will then be for the people of Wales to decide the outcome of the referendum on further law-making powers for the National Assembly for Wales.

### Child Trust Fund

**Mrs Siân C. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many families in Wales have received payments from the Child Trust Fund since its inception. [3039]

**Mr David Jones:** The latest available statistics show that 179,000 Child Trust Fund accounts have been opened in Wales for children born from 1 September 2002 to 5 April 2008.

### Companies House: Nantgarw

**Owen Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) if she will meet employees of Companies House to discuss the proposed closure of Companies House operations in Nantgarw; [3180]

(2) whether she plans to visit the offices of Companies House in *(a)* Cardiff and *(b)* Nantgarw; [3181]

(3) whether she has had discussions with *(a)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council on the decision by Companies House to close its operations at Nantgarw. [3183]

**Mrs Gillan:** I am naturally concerned for all people in Wales who find themselves in such circumstances, and I have discussed this issue with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. He has assured me that staff are being kept fully informed of developments.

I understand that the hon. Member met the chief executive of Companies House on 17 June and I hope that he was similarly reassured.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr David:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she has authorised any building renovations to Gwydyr House; and whether she plans to make any structural changes to Gwydyr House. [2080]

**Mrs Gillan:** Gwydyr House has not been subject to refurbishment work for some years and its current poor state of repair is not in keeping with our obligations for managing a Grade II* Listed Building. My officials are currently looking at a number of options to restore Gwydyr House to a state that ensures the building remains structurally safe and provides an acceptable working environment for staff. In addition, work will be undertaken during the summer recess to strengthen the structure of the first floor, which has been dangerously weak for a number of years.

### Departmental furniture

**Nick Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent on *(a)* office furnishings and *(b)* refurbishment for her Department's properties since 12 May 2010. [4131]

**Mrs Gillan:** There has not been any expenditure on office furnishings or refurbishments since 12 May 2010.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 12W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister in her Department. [3251]

**Mrs Gillan:** The salary bands for staff employed in both Private Offices are as follows:

| *Grade* | *Salary bands (£)* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *S of S office* | *PUSS office* |
| Senior Civil Service | 58,200-117,800 | — |
| Higher Executive Officer—Fast Stream | 25,700-33,200 | — |
| Senior Executive Officer | — | 38,662-47,496 |
| Executive Officer | 22,755-28,000 | 22,755-28,000 |
| Admin Officer | 20,754-25,023 | — |

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many of her Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review; [3648]

(2) how many officials in her Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to her Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure her Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3670]

**Mrs Gillan:** The Wales Office is a separate entity within the Ministry of Justice, and uses their centralised contracts. Wales Office staff take no direct role in any negotiations but my department will benefit from any savings gained.

### Devolution

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many times she has met Members of the European Parliament representing Wales since her appointment; and what was discussed at each such meeting. [3456]

**Mrs Gillan:** I have met one Welsh MEP, exchanged correspondence with another MEP and my private office is still waiting to find a mutually convenient date to meet them all in the near future.

### Economic Situation

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with CBI Wales on the state of the Welsh economy. [3042]

**Mrs Gillan:** I have had initial meetings with several Welsh business organisations, including CBI Wales, who I addressed last Friday in Cardiff. I intend to have further such meetings in the weeks and months ahead in order to forge constructive working relationships with these key stakeholders in the Welsh economy.

### RAF St Athan

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Deputy First Minister of Wales on the effects on the economy in Wales of the proposed St. Athan Defence Training Academy. [3457]

**Mrs Gillan:** I have met the Deputy First Minister on several occasions since I took office. Discussions focused on a range of issues affecting Wales.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Algeria: Foreign Relations

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage bilateral relations with Algeria. [3462]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK already enjoys a good bilateral relationship with Algeria. There is established cooperation on trade, migration, counter-terrorism and energy and our two countries have signed agreements in areas of judicial cooperation, migration and defence relations. Recently we have worked closely together at the UN to deter the payment of ransoms for hostages to terrorist groups and at the Conference on Disarmament and the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference and I look forward to discussing further action in areas of mutual interest with my Algerian counterparts over the coming months.

### Aung San Suu Kyi

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Burmese government on the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi. [3618]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** I raised Burma with ASEAN Ministers at the EU-ASEAN Ministerial on 26 May 2010 at which the Burmese Foreign Minister was present. I made clear that without the release and participation of all political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's elections will not be free and fair. The subsequent summit statement reflected the EU's concern. To mark Aung San Suu Kyi's 65th birthday, my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and I called on the military regime to end her detention. Our ambassador in Rangoon repeatedly raises the need for the release of prisoners of conscience, including Aung San Suu Kyi, with Ministers in the Burmese military government. We will continue to raise the plight of Burma's political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi through the EU, with Burma's neighbours, and we will highlight the issue in the UN Security Council and UN's human rights bodies. We endorse the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's recent observation that the ongoing detention of Aung San Suu Kyi is illegal and in violation of international human rights law.

### Colombia: Political Prisoners

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of political prisoners being held in Colombia. [3407]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We have not received any recent reports on the number of political prisoners held in Colombia.

### Departmental Reviews

**Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer by the Leader of the House of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Government departments: reviews, what reviews are being undertaken by his Department; for what purpose in each case; and on what timescale. [2632]

**Mr Lidington:** The Coalition Agreement sets out in detail the Government's future plans, including the key reviews it will be undertaking. My Department will bring forward detailed information about these reviews in due course.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Pay

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 19W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in *(a)* the London office and *(b)* the central support staff team. [3252]

**Mr Paterson:** The salary range for staff employed in the joint Private Office in London and the central support staff team in Belfast is set out as follows.

*London Office and central support staff (Belfast)*

| | *Salary range* |
|---|---|
| A | £40,966-£54,838 |
| B1 | £31,013-£38,893 |
| B2 | £24,816-£30,520 |
| C | £18,336-£26,086 |
| D1 | £15,348-£17,099 |
| D2 | £13,543-£14,756 |

London based staff are paid an additional sum of £4,400 per annum for London Weighting.

Belfast based staff receive an additional revised environmental allowance payment of £287 per annum.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Mr Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland are in receipt of the state pension. [3406]

**Mr Paterson:** This is a devolved matter which is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Minister for Social Development whose department sponsors the Social Security Agency.

### Terrorism

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has received a security assessment of the murder of a man on the Shankill Road, Belfast on 28 May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [3561]

**Mr Paterson:** I receive regular security assessments from my security advisers. The murder of Bobby Moffet on the Shankill Road on 28 May is subject to an ongoing police investigation and I do not wish to make any further comment on it at this time.

## JUSTICE

### Marriage: Homosexuality

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to allow civil weddings and partnership ceremonies to include religious readings, music and symbols. [2119]

**Lynne Featherstone:** I have been asked to reply.

Currently, same-sex couples can enter a civil partnership under the Civil Partnership Act 2004 which gives them the opportunity to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. Couples who register their civil partnerships gain vital rights and protections, similar to married couples. Civil partnership registrations are entirely secular in nature and, as with civil marriage, prohibited from taking place on religious premises, or containing any religious language. An amendment made to the Equality Act 2010 removed the express prohibition on civil partnerships taking place on religious premises.

This Government are committed to supporting civil partnerships. This week, the Prime Minister launched Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality, an ambitious programme of work to tackle outdated prejudices and ensure equal chances for everyone, whatever their sexual orientation or gender identity. It contains a commitment to talk to those with a key interest in this issue about what the next stage should be for civil partnerships, including how some religious organisations can allow same-sex couples the opportunity to register their relationship in a religious setting if they wish to do so.

### Prisons: Drugs

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place for rehabilitation of drug addicts in prisons in England and Wales. [3843]

**Mr Blunt:** The National Offender Management Service has in place a drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised Models of Care, to address the needs of drug misusing prisoners. The interventions available are designed to meet the needs of low, moderate and severe drug misusers – irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity. Core elements of the framework are available in all adult prisons across England and Wales. Higher intensity services are available in selected sites according to the drug treatment needs offenders.

The interventions comprise:

Clinical services, detoxification and/or maintenance prescribing;

CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare service) - specialist support and advice services that, following assessment, deliver psychosocial interventions, treatment and support. CARATs are available in all adult prisons in England and Wales and take the lead Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) role in prisons, engaging with prison Resettlement teams and Criminal Justice Integrated Teams (CJITs) in the community;

Drug Rehabilitation Programmes - There are 113 drug rehabilitation programmes running in 96 establishments. Prisons provide a range of drug rehabilitation programmes that vary in programme length - from four weeks (Short Duration Programme) to more than a year (therapeutic communities).

The intensive drug treatment programmes available in prison can be split into four main categories:

The cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT)

The 12-Step approach

Therapeutic Communities (TCs)

Short Duration Programme (SDP)

This Government believe that more can be done to cut drug related reoffending by overhauling the system of rehabilitation. We are considering how sentencing and treatment for drug use can help offenders to come off drugs once and for all. This includes the exploration of alternative secure treatment based accommodation.

### Prisons: Religion

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the HM Chief Inspector of Prisons report on experiences of Muslim prisoners cost to produce. [3091]

**Mr Blunt:** This material for this review was gathered between February 2009 and June 2010, during which time the inspectorate also produced 14 other thematic reviews, 132 inspection reports of prisons, young offender institutions, immigration detention facilities and police custody, as well as a range of other work. The report drew on material gained in the course of the Inspectorate's normal inspection activity with some further research by inspectorate staff. For this reason, it is not possible to produce discrete costings for this review.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Pay

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 3W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [3249]

**David Mundell:** All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment, mainly from the Ministry of Justice or the Scottish Government. There are currently four full-time staff in the Secretary of State for Scotland's office and two full-time staff in the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State's office. There are also three other full time staff in the Private Office. They are all employees of the Ministry of Justice. Detailed information relating to salary ranges by grade is available from the Ministry of Justice.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people convicted of crimes in which alcohol was a contributory factor in each of the last three years. [3317]

**James Brokenshire:** The data requested on crimes where alcohol is a contributory factor are not collected centrally.

### Children

**Mr Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of mothers of babies classified by the police as having been abandoned who were subsequently re-united with their babies in each of the last five years. [3765]

**Nick Herbert:** The requested data are not collected centrally.

Although the Home Office collects data on the number of offences of abandoning a child under the age of two years recorded by the police, the Home Office does not collect related data on the number of these children who are subsequently re-united with their mothers.

### Closed Circuit Television

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future regulation of closed circuit television; and if she will make a statement. [3817]

**Mrs May:** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* In our Coalition programme for Government, we have stated that we will further regulate CCTV. We will bring forward proposals in due course.

### Demonstrations: Barking

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received on disturbances to public order during the parade by the 1st Battalion of The Royal Anglian Regiment at Barking on 15 June 2010. [3823]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* The Metropolitan police inform me there were three arrests for public order offences during the parade by the 1st Battalion of the Royal Anglican Regiment in Barking on 15 June.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimate is of the cost to the public purse of proposed reductions in numbers of non-front-line staff in her Department and its agencies. [493]

**Nick Herbert:** We do not yet have a precise estimate of the reductions in non-front-line staff which will be needed this year. But we will be seeking to minimise the costs of those reductions, by using, in the first instance, recruitment freezes and normal turnover.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the use by Ministers in her Department of cars allocated from *(a)* her Department's pool and *(b)* the Government car pool which are manufactured in the UK; whether Ministers in her Department are entitled to request the use of a car manufactured in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [2419]

**Nick Herbert:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 290W.

### DNA: Databases

**Mr Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many convictions for serious offences attributable to evidence held on the National DNA database there have been since the database's inception. [3261]

**James Brokenshire:** Data on the number of convictions obtained in which DNA match evidence from the National DNA Database (NDNAD) was a contributory factor are not collected centrally.

However, data are available on the number of detections in which a DNA match was available. Table 1 shows the number of serious crimes detected in which a DNA match was available for each year from 2005-06 to 2008-09. Data are not available for earlier years.

The figures do not include: additional detections where an offender admits further offences following a detection for which a DNA match was available; or crimes detected as a result of one-off speculative searches of the NDNAD or from comparing DNA profiles in a forensic laboratory, procedures which are used mainly in the investigation of serious crimes such as murder and rape. Consequently, the figures provided in Table 1 under-represent the overall contribution of DNA matches to the detection of serious crimes such as murder and rape. It is also important to note that convictions are obtained through integrated criminal investigation, not through DNA evidence alone.

The source of the figures provided is the forensic performance data, which are collected by the Home Office from police forces. The figures for 2009-10 are not yet available.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

*Detections of crimes in which a DNA match was available*

| *Serious crime categories* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Homicide | 77 | 88 | 83 | 70 |
| Rape | 223 | 195 | 184 | 168 |
| Other sex offences | 115 | 84 | 64 | 106 |
| Other violent offences | 754 | 790 | 849 | 861 |
| Robbery | 584 | 547 | 617 | 603 |

*Notes:*

1. A 'detection' means that the crime was cleared up and a DNA match was available.

2. The police data on forensic activity uses 12 broad crime categories.

3. The five crime categories listed above broadly equate to 'serious crime'.

4. The other seven categories of the forensic activity data (not shown) broadly equate to less serious crime e.g. burglary, vehicle offences, criminal damage, drugs offences etc.

5. The table gives data only for 'Detections in which a DNA match is available'. It does not include 'Additional detections where an offender admits further offences following a detection for which a DNA match was available'.

6 The 'Other violent offences' category of the forensic activity data include violence offences both with injury and with no injury. In the Recorded Crime Statistics, approx half of the crimes in the category 'Violence against the Person' (excluding homicide) are violence offences with no injury. It is likely that a similar proportion of the 'Other violent offences' category of the forensic activity data shown above are also offences with no injury.

*Source:*

Police data on forensic activity and detections

### Drugs and Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take with local communities to reduce the level of drug- and alcohol-related crime. [3325]

**James Brokenshire:** The Government are committed to tackling drug and alcohol related crime wherever it occurs. Based upon the Coalition Programme for Government, a cross-department review of drugs policy is underway.

UK drug laws already provide the opportunity for criminal justice interventions with problem drug misusers to contribute to reducing drug misuse and drug-related crime. We will conduct a full review of sentencing policy to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and cutting reoffending. In particular, we will ensure that sentencing for drug use helps offenders come off drugs. In addition, we will explore alternative forms of secure, treatment-based accommodation for drugs offenders.

As clearly set out in the Coalition Agreement, we will also introduce a system of temporary bans on new emerging 'legal highs' to protect the public, especially young people, from drug harms and to combat unscrupulous manufacturers and suppliers who target young people In the Coalition Agreement the Government set out a clear programme of reform around alcohol licensing to tackle the crime and antisocial behaviour that is too often associated with binge drinking in the night-time economy. In particular, the Government set out six specific commitments. The Government will:

overhaul the Licensing Act to give local authorities and the police much stronger powers to remove licences from, or refuse to grant licences to, any premises that are causing problems;

allow councils and the police to shut down permanently any shop or bar found to be persistently selling alcohol to children;

double the maximum fine for under-age alcohol sales to £20,000;

permit local councils to charge more for late-night licences to pay for additional policing;

ban the sale of alcohol below cost price;

review alcohol taxation and pricing to ensure it tackles binge drinking without unfairly penalising responsible drinkers, pubs and important local industries.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Joan Ruddock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for student visas were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused in 2009; and how many such applications from each country of origin have been (i) granted and (ii) refused in 2010 to date. [3696]

**Damian Green:** The total number of student visas[1] issued and refused in 2009 was 303,635 and 104,536, respectively. The number of student visas issued and refused in the first Quarter of 2010 by nationality of the applicant is shown in the following table:

[1] Excludes student visitors

*Student visa applications: Main applicants January to March 2010*

| *Nationality* | *Applications* | *Issued* | *Refused* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan | 106 | 66 | 45 |
| Albania | 84 | 45 | 41 |
| Algeria | 103 | 68 | 48 |
| Andorra | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Angola | 63 | 53 | 21 |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Argentina | 28 | 28 | 7 |
| Armenia | 12 | 9 | 4 |
| Australia | 74 | 81 | 12 |
| Azerbaijan | 53 | 31 | 22 |
| Bahamas | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Bahrain | 91 | 79 | 13 |
| Bangladesh | 7,558 | 5,024 | 2,617 |
| Barbados | 7 | 9 | 0 |
| Belarus | 19 | 13 | 7 |
| Belize | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Benin | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Bhutan | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Bolivia | 13 | 11 | 5 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 13 | 9 | 3 |
| Botswana | 25 | 18 | 6 |
| Brazil | 756 | 638 | 125 |
| British national overseas | 65 | 56 | 24 |
| Brunei | 29 | 25 | 3 |
| Burkina | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| Burma (Myanmar) | 150 | 65 | 133 |
| Burundi | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Cambodia | 14 | 7 | 6 |
| Cameroon | 198 | 123 | 102 |
| Canada | 141 | 122 | 19 |
| Cape Verde | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Central African Republic | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Chad | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Chile | 57 | 50 | 9 |
| China | 2,414 | 2,192 | 2,461 |
| Colombia | 1,229 | 957 | 2,52 |

*Student visa applications: Main applicants January to March 2010*

| *Nationality* | *Applications* | *Issued* | *Refused* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Comoros | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Congo | 24 | 4 | 25 |
| Costa Rica | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Croatia | 22 | 12 | 9 |
| Cuba | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Cyprus | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Democratic republic of Congo | 21 | 7 | 16 |
| Djibouti | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Dominica | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Dominican Republic | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Ecuador | 51 | 37 | 19 |
| Egypt | 153 | 79 | 50 |
| El Salvador | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 12 | 9 | 3 |
| Eritrea | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Ethiopia | 13 | 11 | 4 |
| Gabon | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Gambia | 75 | 44 | 30 |
| Georgia | 54 | 37 | 22 |
| Germany | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Ghana | 137 | 78 | 88 |
| Grenada | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Guatemala | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Guinea | 21 | 9 | 12 |
| Guyana | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Haiti | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Honduras | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Hong Kong | 119 | 102 | 24 |
| Hungary | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| India | 18,188 | 9,231 | 8,257 |
| Indonesia | 89 | 66 | 39 |
| Iran | 730 | 390 | 328 |
| Iraq | 70 | 37 | 30 |
| Israel | 30 | 16 | 13 |
| Ivory Coast | 25 | 6 | 22 |
| Jamaica | 11 | 8 | 3 |
| Japan | 945 | 871 | 73 |
| Jordan | 132 | 88 | 48 |
| Kazakhstan | 120 | 154 | 40 |
| Kenya | 131 | 72 | 69 |
| Kosovo | 19 | 8 | 11 |
| Kuwait | 144 | 129 | 23 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 38 | 13 | 31 |
| Laos | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Lebanon | 52 | 38 | 26 |
| Lesotho | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| Liberia | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Libya | 651 | 605 | 57 |
| Macau | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| Macedonia | 32 | 24 | 8 |
| Madagascar | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| Malawi | 29 | 15 | 17 |
| Malaysia | 390 | 300 | 101 |
| Maldives | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Mali | 13 | 6 | 8 |
| Mauritania | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| Mauritius | 86 | 72 | 20 |
| Mexico | 149 | 106 | 82 |
| Moldova | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| Mongolia | 119 | 58 | 135 |
| Montenegro | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Morocco | 135 | 88 | 45 |
| Mozambique | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Namibia | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Nauru | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Nepal | 2,807 | 7,42 | 1,105 |
| New Zealand | 18 | 22 | 3 |
| Nicaragua | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Niger | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Nigeria | 2,468 | 1,716 | 1,082 |
| Oman | 72 | 70 | 7 |
| Pakistan | 9,195 | 5,154 | 4,585 |
| Panama | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Papua New Guinea | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Peru | 50 | 44 | 16 |
| Philippines | 3,481 | 1,071 | 1,002 |
| Qatar | 96 | 95 | 7 |
| Russia | 224 | 163 | 100 |
| Rwanda | 28 | 16 | 12 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1,896 | 1,657 | 263 |
| Senegal | 62 | 36 | 26 |
| Serbia | 31 | 23 | 9 |
| Seychelles | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Sierra Leone | 32 | 16 | 21 |
| Singapore | 53 | 40 | 16 |
| Somalia | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| South Africa | 99 | 60 | 35 |
| South Korea | 1,562 | 1,605 | 1,29 |
| Sri Lanka | 2,848 | 1,905 | 1,086 |
| St Kitts and Nevis | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| St Lucia | 8 | 7 | 3 |
| St Vincent | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Stateless (art one 1951 convention) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sudan | 38 | 21 | 18 |
| Swaziland | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Syria | 88 | 43 | 53 |
| Taiwan | 276 | 272 | 24 |
| Tajikistan | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Tanzania | 130 | 67 | 89 |
| Thailand | 747 | 565 | 129 |
| Togo | 9 | 3 | 5 |
| Tonga | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 29 | 19 | 12 |
| Tunisia | 20 | 14 | 8 |
| Turkey | 1,427 | 1,070 | 429 |
| Turkmenistan | 77 | 47 | 30 |
| Uganda | 56 | 37 | 35 |
| Ukraine | 72 | 56 | 33 |
| United Arab Emirates | 163 | 154 | 9 |
| United nations | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| United states | 748 | 788 | 98 |
| Unspecified Nationality | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Uruguay | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Uzbekistan | 82 | 37 | 68 |
| Venezuela | 85 | 59 | 36 |
| Vietnam | 369 | 262 | 106 |
| Refugee 1951 Convention | 11 | 4 | 6 |
| Hong Kong | 8 | 8 | 2 |

*Student visa applications: Main applicants January to March 2010*

| *Nationality* | *Applications* | *Issued* | *Refused* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Palestinian Authority | 45 | 25 | 24 |
| Yemen | 93 | 35 | 49 |
| Yugoslavia | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Zambia | 60 | 26 | 29 |
| Zimbabwe | 32 | 17 | 19 |
| Total | 66,200 | 40,787 | 26,677 |

The data in this table are based on Management Information and as such has not been quality assured. It is provisional and subject to change.

## Identity Cards

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much the Identity and Passport Service has received in application fees for identity cards from applicants in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* Greater Manchester. [3276]

**Damian Green:** The Identity and Passport Service received total income of £196,000 from the issue of identity cards in the financial year 2009-10. It is not possible to provide information relating to particular constituencies or regions for identity card applications.

## Immigration: Appeals

**Richard Harrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of (a) first and (b) second tier immigration appeals were allowed in each year since 2005. [3272]

**Damian Green:** The following figures provide the proportions of immigration appeals both including and excluding asylum.

Between April 2005 and February 2010, the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) operated a single tier system; a First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) did not exist, so it has been assumed that:

'first tier' refers to appeals determined by immigration adjudicators/judges; and

'second tier' refers to appeals to the Tribunal/Reconsideration Hearings.

*(a)* The proportions of immigration appeals determined by immigration adjudicators/judges for 2005 to 2008 that were allowed are as follows:

| | | | *Number of appellants* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total appeals determined by immigration adjudicators/judges* | *Allowed* | *Allowed as percentage of determined* |
| *Excluding asylum appeals* | | | |
| 2005 | 66,805 | 24,795 | 37 |
| 2006 | 151,355 | 51,320 | 34 |
| 2007 | 139,880 | 44,985 | 32 |
| 2008[1] | 157,115 | 54,265 | 35 |
| *Including asylum appeals* | | | |
| 2005 | 100,250 | 30,400 | 30 |
| 2006 | 167,310 | 54,860 | 33 |
| 2007 | 154,825 | 48,370 | 31 |
| 2008[1] | 167,835 | 56,740 | 34 |

[1] Provisional figures.

*Note:*

Data rounded to the nearest 5.

*Source:*

Data for January to March 2005: Home Office Presenting Officers; April 2005 to December 2008: Tribunal Service, Draft AIT Business Plan April 2009

These data are available on page 88 of the "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2008" available from:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Data for 2009 are due to be published on 26 August 2010.

*(b)* The proportion of appeals to the Tribunal/Reconsideration Hearings for 2005 to 2008 that were allowed are as follows:

| | | | *Number of appellants (except January to March 2005, number of persons bringing the onward appeal)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total appeals to the tribunal/reconsideration hearings determined* | *Allowed* | *Allowed as percentage of determined* |
| *Excluding asylum appeals* | | | |
| 2005 | 1,935 | 600 | 31 |
| 2006 | 2,915 | 1,095 | 38 |
| 2007 | 6,510 | 2,880 | 44 |
| 2008[1] | 6,140 | 2,995 | 49 |
| *Including asylum appeals* | | | |
| 2005 | 9,685 | 2,050 | 21 |
| 2006 | 7,320 | 2,380 | 33 |
| 2007 | 10,305 | 4,330 | 42 |
| 2008[1] | 8,805 | 4,075 | 46 |

[1] Provisional figures.

*Note:*

Data rounded to the nearest 5.

*Source:*

Data for January 2005 to September 2006: Business Plan March 2008; April 2005 to December 2008: Tribunal Service, Draft AIT Business Plan April 2009

These data have not previously been published. They have been taken from the Draft AIT Business Plan April 2009 to be consistent with the data provided for part *(a)*.

## Police: Chauffeur-driven Cars

**Caroline Dinenage:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many chief constables have chauffeur-driven cars; and at what total cost to the public purse. [2201]

**Nick Herbert:** This information is not held centrally. Arrangements as to cars and drivers are matters for individual police authorities and chief constables to decide.

## Police: Elections

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the merits of a cap on election expenses for candidates for posts as directly-elected police commissioners. [3609]

**Nick Herbert:** The Government have made no decisions yet on this issue. Electoral arrangements for directly elected individuals will be considered as the Government prepare for the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill this autumn.

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the merits of different methods of election of directly-elected police commissioners. [3611]

**Nick Herbert:** The Government have made no decisions yet on this issue. Electoral arrangements for directly elected individuals will be considered as the Government prepare for the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill this autumn.

### Police: Finance

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the effects of a council tax freeze on police precepts. [3610]

**Nick Herbert:** It is agreed Government policy that council tax will be frozen for at least one year, and we will seek to freeze it for a further year, in partnership with local authorities. A further announcement will follow in due course.

### Public Expenditure: Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement of 24 May 2010 and pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 69W, on public expenditure: Wales, if she will provide details of her Department's non-devolved public expenditure savings that will be incurred in Wales, including an estimate of the financial savings. [2937]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* The Home Office made a contribution of £367 million to the £6 billion in-year public expenditure savings announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24 May. These savings were focused on the back office and lower-value spend. The majority of these reductions were made to the cost of the Home Office and its agencies but there was also some impact on the police, which should be met by efficiency savings and savings found from within discretionary non-frontline spend. We are confident that forces can manage these reductions whilst leaving the front-line of policing strong and secure.

Police funding for 2010-11 has been reduced by a total of £135 million of which £125 million was composed of reductions to the core police grant and police capital grant. The details for Welsh forces are set out as follows. This information was laid before the House in a written ministerial statement on 27 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 12-16WS. This reduction is equivalent to less than 1% expected total police spending this year.

*£ million*

| | *2010-11 Home Office police grant as agreed February 2010* | *Amended 2010-11 Home Office police grant* | *Capital grant as notified January 2010* | *Amended 2010-11 capital grant* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dyfed-Powys | 35.2 | 34.4 | 1.0 | 0.9 |
| Gwent | 48.6 | 47.5 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| North Wales | 48.5 | 47.4 | 1.5 | 1.4 |
| South Wales | 105.5 | 102.9 | 3.0 | 2.8 |
| Welsh total | 237.8 | 232.2 | 6.9 | 6.4 |

The remaining £10 million of the £135 million relates to a reduction in policing counter-terrorism grants spread across England and Wales. This reduction was applied to forces in both England and Wales on the advice of ACPO (TAM) and agreed by the Home Office. The specific allocation of these grants is not put into the public domain for reasons of national security.

No other reductions have been made to Home Office budgets in 2010-11 which would have a specific impact on Wales.

### Sexual Offences: Registration

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government plans to take in response to the Supreme Court's judgement on R (on the application of F (by his litigation friend F)) and Thompson (FC) (Respondents) *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department (Appellant); and if she will make a statement. [3414]

**James Brokenshire:** We are considering the Supreme Court's judgment carefully before deciding on the most appropriate action. In the meantime, registered sex offenders will still have to comply with the notification requirements as they currently stand.

### UK Border Agency

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases were raised with the UK Border Agency by each hon. Member between May 2005 and May 2010. [3270]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency only has central records of inquiries from hon. Members that are made in writing to Ministers or direct to the agency's MPs' liaison unit; e-mails to the central MPs inquiry e-mail address and phone calls to the MPs' inquiry line. These records date back to the start of 2007 so information on the number of inquiries made between May 2005 and December 2006 are not available.

The table placed in the House Library shows the number of inquiries made by hon. Members each year from 2007 to 31 May 2010. The number of written inquiries includes letters written to Ministers, direct to the UK Border Agency as well as e-mails received by the agency.

The data have been manually reconciled from correspondence and telephone inquiry management systems.

### War Crimes: Universal Jurisdiction

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent representations she has received on the applicability of universal jurisdiction to representatives of foreign governments accused of war crimes travelling to the UK; and what steps the Government plans to take on the matter. [3052]

**Damian Green:** The Home Secretary has not received representations on this matter, which is the responsibility of the Justice Secretary.

The purpose of asserting universal jurisdiction, as we have done in relation to war crimes under the Geneva Conventions Act and a few other offences of exceptional gravity, is to ensure that there is no impunity for those accused of such crimes. But it is important that universal jurisdiction cases should be taken only on the basis of solid evidence that is likely to lead to a successful prosecution, and the Government are considering how to secure that outcome.

### Wickham Research Laboratories: Animal Experiments

**Mr. Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 230W, on Wickham Research Laboratories: animal experiments, when she expects to be in a position to consider the findings of the review. [3413]

**Lynne Featherstone:** I expect to receive the report by 5 July 2010 and will publish the results when I have considered its findings.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral statement of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 663-6, on Afghanistan, whether the £67 million announced is to fund counter-improvised explosive device teams in addition to those which were planned by the previous government. [3486]

**Dr Fox** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* The Prime Minister confirmed, in his statement on 14 June, that an additional £67 million will be made available for resources to counter the threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs). This £67 million will be made available to fund a commitment made by the previous Government that was never fully funded. This is new money—over and above funding that has already been approved—and will allow us to equip a significantly increased number of specialist counter-IED teams, and generate increased capacity to mitigate the threat from IEDs.

### Animal Experiments

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many animals of each species were used in scientific procedures undertaken under the provisions of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which were commissioned directly by his Department in each year since 2004. [3397]

**Peter Luff:** The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory returns the numbers of procedures undertaken involving animals at DSTL Porton Down to the Home Office on an annual basis, the numbers of procedures returned for last five years are detailed in the following table. This is the only Home Office designated defence establishment. DSTL has an ongoing initiative to reduce the use of animals in the scientific research programme.

*Number of DSTL procedures returned to the Home Office*

| | Guinea pig | Ferret | Mouse | Pig | Rabbit | Rat | Sheep | Non-human primate | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 661 | 60 | 20,016 | 127 | 3 | 195 | 2 | 54 | 21,118 |
| 2006 | 545 | 0 | 15,986 | 123 | 0 | 335 | 4 | 52 | 17,045 |
| 2007 | 647 | 0 | 17,095 | 74 | 5 | 359 | 2 | 75 | 18,257 |
| 2008 | 254 | 0 | 10,404 | 113 | 2 | 549 | 0 | 55 | 11,380 |
| 2009 | 190 | 0 | 7,698 | 96 | 30 | 5 | 0 | 149 | 8,168 |

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Ethical Review Committee at Porton Down is in operation. [3476]

**Peter Luff:** Yes.

### Armed Forces

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of members of each of the armed services are normally resident in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [3707]

**Mr Robathan:** The information is not held in the format requested. The vast majority of service personnel will live near to where they are stationed during their normal duty hours but may travel to other areas during off duty periods such as weekends or leave periods. The following table provides information on the permanent location of service personnel stationed in United Kingdom at 1 April 2010.

| | Naval Service | Percentage of members | Army | Percentage of members | Royal Air Force | Percentage of members |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 33,160 | 86 | 77,400 | 71 | 36,740 | 83 |
| Wales | 160 | 0.4 | 1,730 | 2 | 1,040 | 2 |

| | Naval Service | Percentage of members | Army | Percentage of members | Royal Air Force | Percentage of members |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scotland | 4,370 | 11 | 3,330 | 3 | 4,370 | 10 |
| Northern Ireland | 30 | 0.08 | 3,870 | 4 | 230 | 0.5 |

The table does not include those individual on permanent non-operational postings outside the UK. Personnel on operational deployments will be shown against their most recent station.

### Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his policy is on mental health screening for serving military personnel; [3445]

(2) whether he has assessed the merits of the establishment of an NHS post-traumatic stress disorder treatment programme for military personnel. [3446]

**Mr Robathan:** The Government take mental health issues extremely seriously, and our "Programme for Government" makes clear that we will provide extra support for ex-service personnel. The Prime Minister has asked my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) to carry out a study into the health of both serving and ex-service personnel to see what more can be done to assess and meet these needs; a focus of this study will be mental health.

We are examining a number of ways to develop mental health support for the armed forces, including screening or surveillance techniques.

The Ministry of Defence is also working closely with the Department of Health so that we can better co-ordinate the way we treat ex-service personnel with mental health problems. As part of the military covenant review we will look into how we can better support combat stress and other charities that do such excellent work to support those suffering after service.

### Armed Forces: Per Capita Costs

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on requests from the private sector for the use of military personnel for which the payment of capitation rates would be applicable. [3443]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence does not routinely provide military personnel to the private sector. Any request from the private sector for the use of military personnel and the subsequent cost recovery would be considered on a case by case basis, ensuring there is no operational impact.

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the setting of his Department's military manpower capitation rates takes into account *(a)* past trends and *(b)* likely future consumption rates. [3444]

**Nick Harvey:** Ministry of Defence manpower capitation rates are calculated on the basis of actual rates for pay, employer's national insurance contributions and notional superannuation contributions plus an uplift for administration costs.

### Atomic Weapons Establishment

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what intervals the Atomic Weapons Establishment's Nuclear Safety Committee met in the last 12 months; and what the names are of the committee members. [2026]

**Peter Luff:** Meetings of the Atomic Weapons Establishment's Nuclear Safety Committee are held on a monthly basis. Additional meetings are held as required in response to business requirements, but no such meetings have been required in the last 12 months.

With regard to the names of the committee members, I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

### Colombia: Military Aid

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military aid his Department provided to Colombia in the last 12 months. [2893]

**Nick Harvey:** The UK has an on-going programme of counter-narcotics assistance for Colombia. It would not be appropriate to provide details about this programme, as to do so would prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

In addition to this, in December 2009 the Ministry of Defence hosted a visit to the UK by a small Colombian delegation supporting their preparations to deploy to Afghanistan as part of the ISAF coalition.

### Defence

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanism has been put in place for the submission of opinions as part of the Strategic Security and Defence Review. [3602]

**Dr Fox:** I refer the hon. Member to my opening speech in the debate on the Strategic Defence and Security Review on 21 June, *Official Report*, column 52.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* front-line and *(b)* other staff were employed by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in the latest year for which figures are available; and what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of employing staff of each type at each of those bodies. [532]

**Dr Fox:** We do not distinguish between frontline and non-frontline staff. Information in this format could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of staff employed, and their cost, is published annually in the Ministry of Defence's and defence Trading Funds' Annual Reports and Accounts. Copies of the reports for 2008-09 have been placed in the Library of the House (see note 9, starting on page 217). The figures for 2009-10 are intended for future publication in the 2009-10 Departmental and Trading Fund Annual Reports and Accounts, which are due to be laid before the House by the Summer Recess.

Statistics on numbers of military personnel and civilian personnel are also published on a monthly and quarterly basis respectively on the Defence Analytical Services Agency website

www.dasa.mod.uk

Decisions on how many military and civilian personnel we need for the future will be made in the context of the Government's Strategic Defence and Security Review.

### Iran: Sanctions

**Dr Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what Royal Navy assets will be allocated to the imposition of sanctions against Iran; [3124]

(2) whether the Royal Navy will be used to stop and search vessels bound for Iran as part of the enforcement of sanctions. [3125]

**Nick Harvey** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* For security reasons, we do not as a matter of routine comment on the operational assignments of UK military units. The Government continue to develop a robust response to UNSCR 1929 in accordance with international law.

### Military Aircraft

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what change there has been in the number of UK military airframes available to commanders in the last three years. [2519]

**Peter Luff:** Officials are collating the information requested, across the armed forces, and I will write to the hon. Member shortly when this work is complete.

*Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Derek Twigg:*

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 15 June, (Official Report, column 350W) about the number of airframes available to the armed forces.

The number of airframes available to the armed forces at the end of May 2007 and May 2010 was 1,474 and 1,490 respectively; the figures include fixed and rotary wing aircraft and Remotely Piloted Aircraft. The numbers provided are for the Effective Fleet which comprises all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his re-examination of the UK declaratory nuclear policy will include consideration of compliance with the commitments in the final document of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. [3613]

**Dr Fox:** The Strategic Defence and Security Review will examine all relevant elements of the UK's nuclear declaratory policy. It is not the purpose of this review to examine compliance with the Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (NPT RevCon), which sets out action plans for the international community to make progress against the three pillars of the NPT. The outcome of the NPT RevCon was a good result, and the Government fully support the Chairman's record and agreed action plan from the NPT RevCon.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 511W, on Trident, what the re-examination of the UK's declaratory nuclear policy will include; and what issues related to the replacement of Trident in addition to value for money issues will be considered within the framework of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [3809]

**Dr Fox:** The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) will re-examine all the constituent parts that together form the UK's declaratory nuclear policy. This will be done against a background of the political and security environment facing the UK.

In addition to the Trident value for money review, the SDSR will look at wider maritime and other conventional forces required to support the nuclear deterrent and the sustainability of the UK submarine industrial base.

### RAF Kinloss

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents there have been involving wildlife on the runways at RAF Kinloss in each of the last five years. [2624]

**Nick Harvey:** The number of incidents involving wildlife on the runway at RAF Kinloss over the last five years are shown in the table:

| | *Number of incidents* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 2 |
| 2006 | 2 |
| 2007 | 3 |
| 2008 | 1 |
| 2009 | 3 |

### Trident

**John Woodcock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment will be made of the merits of alternatives to the Trident successor deterrent programme in his Trident value for money review; and if he will make a statement. [3838]

**Dr Fox:** The alternatives to a submarine launched ballistic missile submarine have previously been analysed comprehensively and discounted, either because they could not provide an effective deterrent capability or because they cost more. The value for money study is reviewing the existing plan for the Trident successor.

### Warships

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ships of each class there are in the Royal Navy. [3569]

**Peter Luff:** The information requested is provided in the following table:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Aircraft Carriers | 3 |
| Amphibious Ships | 3 |
| Type 42 Destroyers | 5 |
| Type 45 Destroyers | 2 |
| Type 22 Frigates | 4 |
| Type 23 Frigates | 13 |
| Antarctic Patrol Ship | 1 |
| Hunt Class Minehunters | 8 |
| Sandown Class Minehunters | 8 |
| Survey Ships | 4 |
| Offshore Patrol Vessel | 1 |
| River Class Patrol Vessels | 3 |
| Gibraltar Squadron | 2 |
| Faslane Squadron | 2 |
| Archer Class Fast Training Boats (University Royal Navy Units) | 14 |

In addition, the Royal Navy has 11 submarines (ballistic and fleet).

## EDUCATION

### Academies

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many full-time equivalent civil servants in his Department are engaged in work on policy development and programme delivery in relation to academy schools. [1210]

**Michael Gove:** There are currently around 115 civil servants in the Department for Education engaged directly in work on policy development and programme delivery related to academy schools. There is a substantial number of other civil servants in the Department who make a significant contribution to policy development and programme delivery related to academy schools as part of their wider role. In addition there are 47 staff in the Young People's Learning Agency involved in funding and supporting open academies.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of proposed reductions in numbers of non-frontline staff in his Department and its agencies. [487]

**Michael Gove:** The Department for Education is subject to the same recruitment restrictions as all other Government Departments. It has not yet identified any necessary additional reductions to its non-frontline staff and therefore cannot provide any estimate in relation to cost.

The cost to the Department of any release payments this year will be disclosed in the Department's resource accounts for 2010/11.

### Departmental Reorganisation

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has *(a)* taken on new responsibilities and *(b)* transferred responsibilities to other departments since its renaming. [1918]

**Michael Gove:** The Department for Education has retained the same responsibilities for schools, children services and families—the renaming reflects the new Department's core purpose of supporting teaching and learning. At the same time we remain committed to supporting children and families, so that all can achieve their potential. We are clear that whilst school reform is a priority so is strengthening and reforming children's services. We are determined to give parents more support and make Britain the most family-friendly country in Europe.

The only change to the Department's responsibilities since the renaming is the agreement with the Justice Secretary that the Ministry of Justice would have sole responsibility for youth justice in the new coalition Government. Responsibility for youth justice was previously shared between departments supported by a Joint Youth Justice Unit. We agreed that it was important that one Department, the Ministry of Justice, was clearly accountable for this important area of reform.

### Carers: Children

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what his most recent estimate is of the number of grandparents and extended kin providing unpaid care for children in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [2934]

**Sarah Teather:** The Department does not collect figures on the numbers of grandparents and extended kin who provide child care. However in 2008, the Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents found that: 26% of all families had used grandparents to provide child care; 5% had used an older sibling; and, 6% had used another relative. The number of families in 2008 using informal childcare as a whole (which included grandparents, ex-partners, older siblings, other relatives and a friend or neighbour) was estimated at 2,116,000.

## TREASURY

### Debts: Interest Charges

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue that would be raised in 2010-11 if the tax deductibility of interest payments on debt were removed from *(a)* financial and *(b)* private non-financial corporations. [3409]

**Mr Gauke:** The revenue that would be accrued in 2010-11 if the tax deductibility of net interest payments on debt were removed for private non-financial corporations is estimated to be around £5.5 billion. No estimate has been made for financial corporations.

### Northern Rock

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the eligibility for compensation of former shareholders in Northern Rock consequent upon the transfer of shares to public ownership. [3502]

**Mr Hoban:** The Northern Rock plc Compensation Scheme Order 2008 provides that the compensation payable to

> "persons who held shares in Northern Rock immediately before they were transferred by the Transfer Order"

(on 21 February 2008) shall be determined by an independent valuer in accordance with that order.

On 30 March 2010, the independent valuer, Andrew Caldwell, issued Assessment Notices to shareholders, setting out his final determinations as to the amount of any compensation payable. He found there was no value in Northern Rock's shares prior to the company being taken into temporary public ownership, and therefore no compensation is payable by the Treasury to former shareholders or other persons affected by the Transfer Order.

Under the Northern Rock Compensation Scheme Order 2008 any persons affected by a determination of the valuer may require the valuer to reconsider his decision. Mr Caldwell is currently considering the requests for reconsideration that he has received and will in due course issue Revised Assessment Notices to those who submitted requests. If any affected party is dissatisfied with a Revised Assessment Notice, he may refer the matter to the Upper Tribunal.

### Taxation: Aviation

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will undertake an economic impact assessment of the proposed adoption of a per-plane tax on regional airports. [3604]

**Justine Greening:** The Government will explore changes to aviation tax, including switching from a per-passenger to a per-plane duty. Major changes will be subject to consultation.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value is of the planned reductions in his Department's spending. [3780]

**Chris Grayling:** HM Treasury announced on 24 May that the Department for Work and Pensions would make efficiencies of £535 million to contribute towards the £6.243 billion of cross-Government savings for the current year. The emergency Budget on 22 June set out the overall envelope for Government spending for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 and detailed departmental allocations for the spending review will be announced on 20 October 2010.

### Employment

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which welfare to work and employment projects will be replaced by his Department's work programme. [3901]

**Chris Grayling:** We are finalising the details but the majority of current welfare to work programmes will be replaced by the new Work Programme; for example, the Flexible New Deal and Pathways to Work will be folded into the Work Programme.

This Government are committed to providing targeted support and will be introducing a single, integrated work programme to deliver personalised support for the unemployed and ensure that the right kind of support is available to all who need it. We will publish further details as the design and implementation of the Work Programme progresses.

### Employment Schemes: Homelessness

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to support homeless people seeking employment. [3324]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government have announced that they will introduce the Work Programme, which will offer a single, integrated programme of personalised support to unemployed people, regardless of the benefit they claim. Within this, we will ensure that homeless people and other disadvantaged groups have access to the levels of support that they need.

In order to ensure the best support from providers for the harder-to-help, we will offer stronger incentives for them to work with these groups, and will pay them out of the additional benefits they realise by moving people into work.

We aim to have the Work Programme in place by summer 2011.

The first cross-government Ministerial Working Group on Preventing and Tackling Homelessness met on 16 June. The working group will explore how we can improve on current arrangements and equip greater numbers of homeless people to come off benefits and into work, through better co-ordination of local services.

### Employment: Young People

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what estimate of the number of 18 to 24 year olds reaching the *(a)* six-month and *(b)* 10-month threshold under the youth guarantee scheme his estimate of the cost of delivering that scheme in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12 is based. [3903]

**Chris Grayling:** The DWP does not forecast unemployment. In 2010-11 the Young Person's Guarantee will be offered to every eligible young person when they reach the six month point of their claim to jobseeker's allowance.

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what estimate of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* Routes Into Work, *(b)* the Future Jobs Fund, *(c)* Work-focused Training, *(d)* the Community Task Force, *(e)* internships and *(f)* New Deal places his Department's plans for the Young Person's Guarantee in 2010-11 are based. [3904]

**Chris Grayling:** The Young Person's Guarantee is demand-led therefore a breakdown of the expected expenditure is not available.

The Government are committed to providing targeted support and will be introducing a single, integrated work programme to deliver personalised support for the unemployed, delivering long lasting benefits with a greater focus on sustained employment.

### Jobseekers Allowance: Young People

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what requirements 18 to 24 year-olds who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than 10 months and wish to continue claiming will have to comply with from April 2011. [3902]

**Chris Grayling:** Jobseeker's allowance customers are required to be available to take up full-time work immediately, and to be actively seeking work as their main activity. With certain exceptions, they must not delay their return to the labour market by restricting the type of work they are prepared to do or when they are prepared to return to work. In addition, customers must attend fortnightly jobsearch reviews, and must attend interviews with advisers and mandatory employment activity when required to do so.

By the summer of 2011, the Government aim to have the Work Programme in place nationally. When they enter the Work Programme, young people claiming jobseeker's allowance will be required to take up employment support as a condition of their benefit claim.

We are currently developing the specification for the Work Programme. However, the Government are committed to the principle that young people have access to the support they need, when they need it.

We are also planning further support for young people, including mentoring opportunities with small businesses and sole traders, more apprenticeships and more further education places.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts Council England

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to review the effectiveness of the work of the Arts Council; and if he will make a statement. [3535]

**Mr Vaizey:** As part of the Government's work to address the deficit, the work of all public bodies will be looked at to ensure the most effective use of public funds.

### Listed Events Review

**Yvonne Fovargue:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish the responses he has received in relation to his Department's consultation on the Davies Report on free-to-air sporting events; and if he will take steps to ensure that the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final remains a free-to-air sporting event. [3674]

**Hugh Robertson:** The Government are currently considering next steps in relation to the listed events review and will make a statement at the earliest opportunity. Subject to this decision the Government will then consider publishing the responses to the consultation on the Department's website.

### Olympic Games 2012: Construction

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the landscaping of the London 2012 Olympics sites. [3410]

**Hugh Robertson:** To date, no representations concerning landscaping for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games have been made to me or to the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport.

### Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the locations which have been chosen by each country participating in the London 2010 Olympics and Paralympics for their training facilities. [3514]

**Hugh Robertson:** The Government do not hold records of agreements between potential training facilities and the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) or the National Paralympic Committees (NPCs). However, to date, I am aware of 36 agreements between facilities and overseas teams—as shown in the following table.

| *Country* | *Location* |
|---|---|
| Japan NOC | Loughborough University |
| British Olympic Association | Loughborough University |
| British Virgin Islands NOC | Hertfordshire University Sport Village |
| Rwanda NOC | Bury St Edmunds |
| Rwanda NPC | Bury St Edmunds |
| Mozambique NOC | Comberton Village College Cambridgeshire |
| Bangladesh NOC | Harrow, North West London |
| South Africa NOC | St Mary's University, Twickenham |
| Sri Lanka NOC | Durham University |
| Columbia NOC | North-east |
| Thailand NOC | North-west |
| Oceania—15 Pacific Island NOCs | North-west |
| Australia NOC Swim Team | Manchester |
| Colombia NPC | South-east |
| Barbados NPC | Medway in Kent |
| Malawi NOC | South-east |
| Barbados NOC | South-east |
| Papua New Guinea NPC | South-east |
| Portugal gymnastics/trampoline team | Gillingham |
| Kenya NOC | Bristol |
| Paralympics GB | Bath University |
| Malaysia NOC | Bath and Loughborough Universities |
| Australia NPC | Wales |
| New Zealand NPC | Swansea |
| U.S. Track and Field | Birmingham |
| Jamaica NOC | Birmingham University |
| Serbia NOC | Sheffield and Leeds |
| Zambia NOC | Glasgow |
| Namibia NOC | Glasgow |
| Netherlands NOC Swim Team | Leeds |
| Ukraine Judo | Tonbridge |
| Belarus Judo | Tonbridge |
| Malaysia National Sports Institute | Bath |
| South Africa NPC | Cardiff |
| Gambia NOC | York |
| Azerbaijan | Ipswich |

### Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 20W, on Olympic Games 2012: tickets, how many tickets are being offered to government and other Games public sector delivery partners; and whether they are being offered at a lower price than those available to the public through the ballot process. [3447]

**Hugh Robertson:** There will be no free tickets. As part of its ticketing strategy, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will make available a very small number of tickets for purchase by the core Government Departments and public bodies responsible for delivering the games. These tickets will be purchased at face value—neither free, nor subsidised. The Government have not yet decided whether they will take up the offer.

## TRANSPORT

### A5: M1

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any work on construction of junction 11a of the M1 may be undertaken prior to the completion of the public inquiry on the A5-M1 link. [3829]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* The public inquiry for the A5 M1 Link Road was due to commence on 29 June and immediately follow the inquiry considering the M1 J10-13 managed motorway junction improvements. However, the inquiry into the A5-M1 link road has been deferred pending the outcome of the spending review in the autumn.

It would be inappropriate to undertake any construction work for the proposed new J11a as this would pre-judge the outcome of the public inquiry for A5-M1 link road project.

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the additional cost of building junction 11a of the M1 will be in circumstances in which it is not built at the same time as the automated traffic management works between junctions 11 and 12. [3834]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* The public inquiry for the A5-M1 link road scheme was due to commence on 29 June and immediately follow the public inquiry into the draft orders for the M1 J10-13 managed motorway junction improvements. However, the inquiry for the A5-M1 link road has been deferred until the outcome of the spending review in the autumn.

The additional cost of not building J11a concurrently with the adjacent M1 J10-13 managed motorway scheme, is estimated at £7 million. This is based on deferral of one year.

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate was made of the cost of the public inquiry into the A5-M1 link before that inquiry was postponed. [3835]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* The public inquiry for the A5-M1 link road was due to commence on 29 June and was programmed for approximately four weeks. However, the inquiry has been deferred pending the outcome of the spending review.

The estimated cost for preparation and holding of the public inquiry for this project (based on a four week public inquiry) is £1.8 million.

The estimated £1.8 million costs include: preparation and publication of draft orders, legal costs, consideration of alternative routes proposed by objectors, meetings with stakeholders, preparation and publication of public notices, preparation of evidence for the inquiry, cost of venue hire and the estimated cost for the inquiry inspector.

### Arriva: Finance

**Gordon Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what annual public subsidy is awarded to Arriva for each bus route it operates on the Isle of Sheppey; and what factors are taken into account in calculating that subsidy. [3223]

**Norman Baker:** As an operator of local bus services, Arriva is eligible for Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG). BSOG is paid on the basis of fuel used by an operator on eligible services. Additional incentives apply if an operator: makes fuel efficiency savings; uses low carbon buses; or, from April this year, uses smartcard and or automatic vehicle location equipment (such as GPS). No further factors are taken into account in calculating the grant amount.

Claims for BSOG show which routes are eligible, but it is not possible to identify exactly what money is paid out for routes operating entirely on the Isle of Sheppey (as some routes will extend beyond the Isle). Our best assessment of the subsidy paid to Arriva for routes operating wholly or in part on the Isle of Sheppey is £128,000 (based on the latest year for which a certified claim is available - July 2008 to June 2009).

Some of the Arriva services are run on tender to the local authority and so there will be subsidy paid by the local authority in those cases. However, we are not able to say what payments are made as the arrangements are commercially confidential.

### Bus Services

**Mr Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to encourage greater partnership between bus operators and local authorities in the provision of local bus services. [R] [1366]

**Norman Baker:** We have seen good results in places where local authorities and operators work effectively in partnership to improve local bus services in England and Wales—such as in Brighton, Oxford, York and Cambridge, though there are areas where such effective partnership working is not occurring. We want to ensure best practice is spread much more widely to give bus passengers the services they deserve and expect. I am therefore talking with bus operators, local authorities and others to determine how this success can be replicated around the country.

The outcome of the Competition Commission's current inquiry into the local bus market in Great Britain outside London will be an important factor when considering the potential for partnership working, and I await its final report with interest.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 35WS, on transport (local authority major schemes), in respect of programmes for which there are alternative funding sources, whether alternative funding must cover the full cost of the programme in all cases. [3832]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* The relevant section of the written ministerial statement concerned a small number of schemes being developed by local authorities at various stages of their statutory procedures. Officials have written to the relevant authorities stating that due to the urgent priority to tackle the UK's record budget deficit, the Secretary of State intends to defer various aspects of the statutory order process, unless the authority can provide evidence that alternative funding is available which would allow him to continue to make his decision. Such alternative funding would need to cover the total amount of Government funding sought by the authority for the scheme in question.

Only once the Government's spending review has been concluded will the Department for Transport be in a position to identify those transport projects for which central Government funding will be available.

### Government Car and Despatch Agency

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff were employed by the Government Car Service *(a)* on 6 May 2010 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [2441]

**Mike Penning:** The Government Car Service, part of Government Car and Despatch Agency, employed 188 staff on 6 May 2010. On 11 June 2010, the latest date for which information is available, the Government Car Service employed 186 staff.

The Government Car Service is currently reviewing its headcount figures inline with business operational needs.

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles the Government Car Service has disposed of since the Government came into office. [2442]

**Mike Penning:** Since this Government came into office the Government Car Service has disposed of two cars.

There are 10 vehicles in the process of being decommissioned for disposal, and a further 18 vehicles identified for decommissioning.

### Motorcycles: Driving Tests

**Mr Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* multi-purpose test centres, *(b)* Vehicle and Operator Services Agency sites and *(c)* casual test sites are available to run module one of the motorcycle test in each region. [3898]

**Mike Penning:** The number of multi-purpose test centres (MPTC), Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) sites and casual sites available to deliver module one practical motorcycling tests in the three nations in Great Britain are as follows:

| | *England* | *Scotland* | *Wales* |
|---|---|---|---|
| MPTC | [1]38 | 6 | 3 |
| VOSA | 11 | 3 | 0 |
| Casual | 3 | 1 | 0 |

[1] Includes module 1 tests being delivered from Driving Standards Agency's Training and Development Centre at Cardington, Bedfordshire.

### Network Rail

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which options he is considering to increase the accountability of Network Rail to passengers; what consultation he plans to undertake on these options; and whether he plans to consider the introduction of a co-operative structure for Network Rail. [2811]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Government have a commitment to reform Network Rail to make it more accountable to its customers. We are in the process of considering a number of options to implement this, including options relating to consultation. No decisions on specific measures have yet been made.

### Private Roads

**Mrs Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of unadopted roads in *(a)* St Albans, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England. [2259]

**Norman Baker:** We are not aware of any up to date information which is held centrally on how many unadopted streets there are. The last recorded figures, based on a 1972 survey, suggested there were around 40,000 such streets in the UK.

### Railways: West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of train passengers in *(a)* West Yorkshire and *(b)* Greater Manchester in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [3332]

**Mrs Villiers:** The information requested is currently published annually in aggregated form by the Office for Rail Regulation within its 'National Rail Trends Yearbook'. The latest published data relate to passenger journeys in 2008-09.

Chapter 7 of the latest update of 'National Rail Trends' contains these data and is available on the Office of Rail Regulation website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2026

### River Mersey: Bridges

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has received a report from officials of his Department on the decision of the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the proposed Mersey Gateway bridge. [3761]

**Mike Penning:** No. The Secretary of State announced on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 35WS, that Ministers are postponing decisions on orders for local authority schemes requiring funding from this Department until after the autumn spending review. Until the position on funding for the Mersey Gateway Bridge scheme becomes clearer, it would be premature for officials to report to Ministers with their recommendations on the statutory orders sought by Halton borough council.

### Rolling Stock: Procurement

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to *(a)* receive the report from Sir Andrew Foster on the value for money and credibility of alternative options for the Inter City Express Programme and *(b)* inform the House of the findings of that report. [2749]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Government expect to receive the report on the value for money of the Intercity Express Programme imminently.

The report—and the Government's response to it—will be published shortly afterwards.

### Runcorn-Widnes Road Bridge

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department and its predecessors paid in grant support for ongoing maintenance to the Runcorn-Widnes road bridge in each year since 1992; and how much has been so allocated for the financial year 2010-11. [3762]

**Norman Baker:** Halton borough council received specific funding allocations for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to assist them with maintenance work on the Silver Jubilee Bridge. The allocations were:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 4.4 |
| 2009-10 | 4.9 |
| 2010-11 | 4.5 |

The council was able to use its annual capital highway maintenance allocation from the Department for Transport for repairs to this bridge or other priorities. The Department holds records of those allocations from 1998. These show the following allocations to Halton borough council.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 0.245 |
| 1999-2000 | 2.684 |
| 2000-01 | 2.893 |
| 2001-02 | 2.893 |
| 2002-03 | 2.893 |
| 2003-04 | 2.170 |
| 2004-05 | 2.611 |
| 2005-06 | 1.959 |
| 2006-07 | 2.274 |
| 2007-08 | 2.192 |
| 2008-09 | 1.881 |
| 2009-10 | 2.023 |
| 2010-11 | 2.190 |

Halton borough council also have approval to take forward a major maintenance scheme for the Silver Jubilee Bridge. The Department for Transport's confirmed contribution for this major maintenance scheme is £18.639 million.

### Southeastern: Finance

**Gordon Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what annual public subsidy is paid to Southeastern Railways for each route it operates; and what factors are taken into account in calculating that subsidy. [3222]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport contracts an overall payment for each franchise as a whole, rather than on a route by route basis. This is done through a bidding process which takes into account the costs and revenues of the franchise over its contract period. Subsidy details for the Southeastern (Integrated Kent Franchise) are set out on our website and can be found at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/franchises/franchisepaymentprofiles

### Woodhead Tunnel

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to continue negotiations with Network Rail and the National Grid on the availability and use of all three Woodhead tunnels according to the timescales previously agreed. [3144]

**Mrs Villiers:** Should rail use of the Woodhead tunnels become necessary in the future, the Government would be open to working with Network Rail, National Grid and local stakeholder groups to consider how best to bring this about.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Departmental Pay

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [2173]

**Gregory Barker:** A close and effective link between pay and performance and increased use of variable pay is a key element of the reward arrangements for the civil service—and the senior civil service in particular.

Non-consolidated performance payments are an integral element of the reward package for staff. Non-consolidated performance pay has a number of key advantages:

it encourages continuous high attainment because the payments are dependent upon continuing strong performance;

it prevents a permanent rise in salary and an increase in pension on the basis of one off performances while still allowing good performance to be rewarded;

it has no long-term costs, in particular it does not increase future pension payments;

it focuses the work of employees more directly on the priority goals of the organisation;

it motivates employees by linking an element of compensation to the achievement of departmental objectives rather than offering payment for time served; and

it targets money at those who make the biggest contribution.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in 3 October 2008.

The total expenditure on such bonuses was: *(a)* £469,555 for 2008-09 and *(b)* £825,986 for 2009-10.

### Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on research and development for long-term nuclear waste management, site radiological remediation and facility decommissioning through *(a)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, *(b)* NIREX, *(c)* the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and *(d)* British Nuclear Fuels Ltd in the last 10 years. [2343]

**Charles Hendry:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is responsible for the decommissioning and clean-up of the UK's civil public sector nuclear sites and directly commissions research in support of this mission. Since it was set up in 2005, annual research and development (R and D) expenditure has been approximately:

| | *Spend (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 11 |
| 2006-07 | 13 |
| 2007-08 | 18 |
| 2008-09 | 11 |
| 2009-10 | 11 |

NDA figures do not include indirect R and D expenditure by NDA's contractors carried out in support of its mission across the NDA's estate. For example, that work carried out by the site licence companies who manage nuclear licensed sites on the NDA's behalf. Site license company expenditure on R and D for 2008-09 is estimated to be in the order of £90 million.

*(b)* Prior to being incorporated into the NDA on 31 March 2007, the role of United Kingdom Nirex Ltd was to examine aspects of long-term management and disposal of radioactive waste. Up until that point, Nirex's research and development expenditure over the last decade had been approximately:

| | *Spend (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 5 |
| 2000-01 | 6 |
| 2001-02 | 8 |
| 2002-03 | 8 |
| 2003-04 | 7 |
| 2004-05 | 7 |
| 2005-06 | 7 |
| 2006-07 | 9 |

*(c)* CoRWM's role was initially to advise Government on the best options for the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste and its remit now is to provide independent scrutiny and advice on the long-term management, including storage and disposal, of radioactive waste. As such it does not undertake specific research and development. Further information about the Committee, including costs, is available from its website at:

www.corwm.org.uk

*(d)* British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL) is a private company owned by UK Government which previously operated a number of nuclear sites and businesses with operations in the UK and oversees. The decommissioning assets and liabilities previously owned by BNFL were transferred to the NDA with its creation in 2005. It sold its main American business, Westinghouse in 2006 for $5.4 billion, and dismantled its UK clean-up subsidiary, British Nuclear Group, over the period 2006-2009. BNFL has no remaining operational activities or businesses but its approximate research and development expenditure up until 2007 is set out as follows:

| | *Spend (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 81 |
| 2000 | 96 |
| 2001 | 92 |
| 2002 | 113 |
| 2003 | 109 |
| 2004 | 98 |
| 2005 | 92 |
| 2006 | 41 |
| 2007 | 7 |

BNFL figures up to 2005 include expenditure on R and D across the BNFL estate, including that now carried out by the National Nuclear Laboratory and the NDA's site license companies.

## HEALTH

### Anti-depressants

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of people in each region who have been prescribed anti-depressant medication in each of the last three years. [3318]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Information on the number of people prescribed a medicine is not collected centrally. Information on the number of prescription items for anti-depressants[1] dispensed in the community in England is in the following table.

*Number of prescription items dispensed primary care by strategic health authority for anti-depressant medicines in (SHA) in England: 2007-09*

| | | | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *SHA* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| East midlands | 2,962.7 | 3,186.9 | 3,488.2 |
| East of England | 3,851.0 | 4,108.6 | 4,474.2 |
| London | 3,114.1 | 3,294.6 | 3,571.8 |
| North-east | 2,344.5 | 2,530.0 | 2,770.1 |
| North-west | 5,704.4 | 6,032.1 | 6,515.4 |
| South Central | 2,583.4 | 2,734.1 | 2,975.2 |
| South-east Coast | 2,591.3 | 2,748.7 | 2,990.5 |
| South-west | 3,590.5 | 3,825.6 | 4,194.5 |
| West Midlands | 3,277.1 | 3,484.0 | 3,801.8 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 3,820.8 | 4,015.9 | 4,358.7 |
| Total[2] | 33,839.6 | 35,960.5 | 39,140.5 |

[1] Anti-depressant medication has been defined as those products included in British National Formulary (BNF) Chapter 4.3 (anti-depressant drugs).

[2] Figures may not sum due to rounding.

*Source:*

NHS Prescription Services Information System

### Breast Cancer: Screening

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department has incurred on the NHS Breast Screening Programme in each year since the programme was established; and if he will provide a real-terms budget increase for the programme for 2011-12. [3698]

**Mr Burstow:** The information is not held in the requested format. The funding that covers the cost of delivering national health service cancer screening programmes is provided from local primary care trust allocations. The most recent assessment, made in 2006, put the cost of NHS Breast Screening Programme at £75 million.

Under the NHS Breast Screening Programme, women aged between 50 to 69 years are routinely invited for screening and women over the age of 70 can request free three-yearly screening. The programme is in the process of extending to screening women aged 47 to 49 and 70 to 73 at a cost of £12 million per year.

There is also a fund of £10 million to provide independent quality assurance to the screening programmes, and £4 million of this is for the NHS Breast Screening Programme.

Figures for 2011-12 are subject to the forthcoming comprehensive spending review and cannot be provided at this time.

### Dementia: Drugs

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* NHS trusts, *(c)* residential care homes and *(d)* other institutions on the use of anti-psychotic medicines for people with dementia. [3399]

**Mr Burstow:** The over-prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs for people with dementia is unacceptable. The National Clinical Director for dementia is leading the work to implement the recommendations made by Professor Sube Banerjee in his report into the use of anti-psychotic medicines, which was published in November 2009. Work is under way to consider guidance for institutions on this issue.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's response to Professor Sube Banerjee's report on the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs to people with dementia, of 12 November 2009, when the national audit to generate data on the prescribing of anti-psychotic medicines began; whether he has received any interim findings of that audit; when he expects to receive the final report of that audit; if he will publish that audit; and if he will make a statement. [3401]

**Mr Burstow:** The Department is working with the NHS Information Centre to conduct a review of the progress made by primary care trusts to prioritise support for people with dementia, through a national audit of dementia services. The audit will highlight what progress different localities are making in key areas including reducing the use of anti-psychotic drugs. Work to develop the scope of the audit has begun and once this is finalised the data collection will begin. The results of the audit are expected to be available in October 2010 and the final findings will be reported by the end of 2010.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the national audit of the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs referred to in his Department's response to Professor Sube Banerjee's report on the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs to people with dementia of 12 November 2009. [3402]

**Mr Burstow:** The National Clinical Director for dementia is working with a range of stakeholders to lead the work to implement the recommendations made by Professor Sube Banerjee in his report into the use of anti-psychotic medicines, which was published in November 2009. A key part of this work is to undertake a national audit of the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs. Representatives from across the health, social care and independent sectors with an interest in this issue have been invited to join a stakeholder reference group to advise the Department on the development of the audit.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has commissioned research on a potential correlation between the use of anti-psychotic medicines and use of medication to treat Alzheimer's disease within an institution; whether the national audit referred to in his Department's response to Professor Sube Banerjee's report on the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs to people with dementia of 12 November 2009 will collect data on the use of anti-Alzheimer's disease medication; and if he will make a statement. [3403]

**Mr Burstow:** The Department is not supporting research of this kind. Work is currently under way, being led by the National Clinical Director for dementia in consultation with a range of stakeholders across the health, social care and independent sectors, to develop the scope of the national audit of the prescribing of anti-psychotic medicines. This includes determining what data should be collected.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake a review of the effectiveness of methadone and other treatments in tackling drug addiction; and if he will make a statement. [3512]

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent evaluation his Department has undertaken of the use of methadone to rehabilitate addicts; and if he will make a statement. [3842]

**Anne Milton:** In 2007 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published "Technology Appraisals on methadone and buprenorphine"

www.nice.org.uk/TA114

and also clinical guidelines on opiate detoxification

www.nice.org.uk/CG52

and on psychosocial interventions

www.nice.org.uk/CG51

for drug misuse. NICE periodically reviews its guidance to determine whether an update is required.

In addition, the Department, in conjunction with other United Kingdom administrations, published updated UK clinical guidelines on drug misuse, "Drug misuse and dependence—UK guidelines on clinical management—2007". The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse has produced guidance on the evidence base and clinical practice of drug treatment which can be found at:

www.nta.nhs.uk/publications.aspx

### Electronic Government

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies take to ensure that the principles of digital inclusion are taken into account in respect of information made available online. [3429]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department makes information available online through two websites. Public health information is available at NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk

and information for health and social care professionals is available at

www.dh.gov.uk

The Department is committed to reaching the 12 million people who are not online, particularly the 4 million people who are both socially and digitally excluded.

The Department, through NHS Choices, runs many initiatives with those involved in digital inclusion, including Race Online 2012 and UK online centres.

NHS Choices has an intermediary engagement and training programme with library staff and other front line workers to reach older groups, families on lower incomes and unemployed people.

Features of NHS Choices are available to view on mobile phones and there are also SMS services including 'Find My Nearest' to locate health services such as general practitioner surgeries.

The Department's corporate website www.dh.gov.uk conforms with Government guidelines for website accessibility, and NHS Choices is currently working with AbilityNet, an accessibility expert charity, to make www.nhs.uk more usable for those with disabilities.

As part of our commitment to the rationalisation of websites, we are merging those websites not in line with Cabinet Office guidance and belonging to non-departmental public bodies, with our corporate and public websites. The converged information will then come into line with our current standards on accessibility and our programme of digital inclusion.

### Gender Recognition: Health Services

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to monitor whether primary care trusts provide accessible, timely and high-quality gender identity services; and if he will make a statement. [3351]

**Mr Burstow:** Primary care trusts determine their own local priorities and commission services to meet the needs of their communities. This includes deciding how best to use the available resources to provide gender identity services.

All national health service organisations should comply with the existing law that provides explicit protection and rights for transsexual people in a number of areas including health services. This covers requirements for public bodies, including NHS organisations, to proactively promote gender equality which includes transsexual men and transsexual women.

In September 2009 Sir David Nicholson, NHS chief executive, reminded NHS chief executives and their teams of their legal duties in relation to gender identity services and asked for all cases to be considered individually, according to clinical need and local prioritisation.

### Muscular Dystrophy and Cystic Fibrosis: Research

**Gordon Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated to research into *(a)* Duchenne muscular dystrophy and *(b)* cystic fibrosis in 2010. [3479]

**Mr Burstow:** The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and of the Medical Research Council (MRC) is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Actual expenditure on muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis research in 2010-11 and beyond will be determined by the success of relevant bids for funding.

The Department's most recent estimate of past and planned expenditure on all single gene disorder (SGD) research is shown in the following table.

*Actual and planned expenditure on SGD research: 2003-14*

*£ million*

| *Departmental funding stream* | *Start date* | *End date* | *Expenditure to date* | *Planned expenditure* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Genetics White Paper: gene therapy research programme | 2004 | 2010 | 3 | — |
| NIHR Biomedical Research Centres | 2007 | 2009 | 2.3 | n/a |
| NIHR Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research Care | 2007 | 2010 | — | 0.05 |
| NIHR Health Technology Assessment | 2005 | 2013 | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| NIHR New and Emerging Applications of Technology | 2006 | 2009 | 0.3 | — |
| NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research | 2009 | 2014 | — | 2 |
| NIHR Research for Patient Benefit | 2010 | 2012 | — | 0.2 |

*Actual and planned expenditure on SGD research: 2003-14*

*£ million*

| *Departmental funding stream* | *Start date* | *End date* | *Expenditure to date* | *Planned expenditure* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Policy Research Programme | 2006 | 2010 | — | [1]5.8 |

n/a = Not available.

[1] This figure includes the total funding allocated by the Department to the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit. Only one of the Unit's five work streams is relevant to SGD but we do not have the means separately to identify the cost of that work stream.

*Note:*

Planned expenditure figures are a snapshot of the position at September 2009. Actual expenditure in future years will depend on a number of presently unknown factors, including the possible allocation of funds to new studies.

The NIHR Clinical Research Network is additionally providing national health service research infrastructure support to 16 SGD-related studies.

The MRC also invests in genomic research and genomic medicine. The MRC receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

### NHS: Finance

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to implement its resource allocation formula in respect of unprocessed distance from target adjustments. [3546]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We have guaranteed that health spending will increase in real terms in each year of the Parliament. However, healthcare spend will also be looked at as part of the next spending review. This will inform the speed at which primary care trusts move towards their target revenue allocations.

### North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to make provision for additional services at the University Hospital of Hartlepool; [3899]

(2) pursuant to the oral statement of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1040-1, on public spending, which health capital projects have been approved; [3905]

(3) what costs have been incurred in respect of the new hospital for North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust; [3906]

(4) what clinical advice he took into account in his decision to cancel the hospital project at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust; [3907]

(5) what plans he has for the Momentum programme in the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust area. [3908]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government's review of spending decisions taken since 1 January this year was to ensure that all the schemes considered were affordable, good value for money and consistent with the Government's priorities. This was in the context of the most urgent task facing the Government which was to tackle the record levels of debt inherited from the last government.

As part of the statement given by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 17 June to the House, the cancellation of the proposed new £450 million hospital scheme for North Tees and Hartlepool was announced.

Where major national health service changes are proposed, they must meet the strengthened criteria for such decisions as set out in a letter from the NHS Chief Executive Sir David Nicholson of 20 May to Monitor and all NHS chief executives. This is to ensure that, in future, all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients and not be driven from the top down.

In these tough economic times it is essential that all major hospital building—whether private finance initiatives or public capital—be affordable and provide value for money for the taxpayer. For foundation trusts, proposals must be consistent with their independent status in relation to reduced reliance on Departmental support. As a foundation trust with independent status, North Tees and Hartlepool has borrowing powers and other mechanisms available to it to fund alternative capital investment requirements.

The trust will have incurred costs in working up the proposals, in developing the business case and in performing the feasibility studies behind it. As an independent foundation trust this information is a matter for Monitor (the statutory name for the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) and may be obtained by writing to the Chairman of Monitor.

The business case approved in March 2010 anticipated a request from the trust to the Department for £8 million to buy the land on the Wynyard Park site for the new hospital. This request was received and met by the Department. If the trust has no further use for the land then it can be sold to recover the funding.

The local strategic health authority and primary care trust have both pledged to continue working closely with all local NHS organisations to plan and develop the best possible health services for the population of Hartlepool and North Tees and to ensure that the wider 'Momentum Project'—involving bringing healthcare services closer to communities—will continue.

The NHS capital investment schemes which were approved to go ahead as a result of the Government review of spending commitments made under the last administration since 1 January 2010 are those for Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen Hospitals NHS Trust, the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust and Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust.

### Prescriptions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of free prescriptions which were issued in each region in each of the last three years; [3319]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average cost to the NHS of items issued on prescription in each region in each of the last three years; [3320]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of prescription forms which were submitted in each region in each of the last three years; [3321]

(4) what estimate he has made of the average number of prescription items issued per prescription form in each region in each of the last three years. [3322]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Number and cost of prescription forms and items dispensed in primary care by strategic health authority (SHA) in England: 2007 to 2009*

| *SHA* | *Prescription forms (thousand)* | *Prescription items (thousand)* | *Items where prescription charges were not paid at the point of dispensing[1] (thousand)* | *Average number of items per form* | *Net ingredient cost (£000)* | *Average cost per item (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2007* | | | | | | |
| East midlands | 34,426.6 | 70,150.6 | 65,270.4 | 2.04 | 697,319.1 | 9.94 |
| East of England | 43,339.0 | 86,646.1 | 79,728.0 | 2.00 | 944,385.1 | 10.90 |
| London | 45,142.4 | 91,068.5 | 83,849.0 | 2.02 | 1,010,949.8 | 11.10 |
| North-east | 23,155.9 | 48,186.4 | 45,506.5 | 2.08 | 452,184.8 | 9.38 |
| North-west | 60,298.6 | 126,693.3 | 119,306.1 | 2.10 | 1,342,746.5 | 10.60 |
| South Central | 27,106.7 | 52,843.3 | 47,751.3 | 1.95 | 567,566.2 | 10.74 |
| South-east Coast | 31,010.2 | 62,272.6 | 57,020.8 | 2.01 | 719,007.2 | 11.55 |
| South-west | 41,665.3 | 81,795.8 | 75,818.8 | 1.96 | 787,500.0 | 9.63 |
| West midlands | 43,015.3 | 87,120.8 | 81,456.1 | 2.03 | 977,250.6 | 11.22 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 42,964.7 | 89,520.6 | 83,891.9 | 2.08 | 873,758.0 | 9.76 |
| Total | 392,124.6 | 796,298.0 | 739,599.0 | 2.03 | 8,372,667.3 | 10.51 |
| *2008* | | | | | | |
| East midlands | 35,932.8 | 74,898.9 | 69,976.9 | 2.08 | 691,454.2 | 9.23 |
| East of England | 45,077.0 | 91,852.7 | 84,987.8 | 2.04 | 949,437.2 | 10.34 |
| London | 46,866.7 | 96,993.4 | 89,542.0 | 2.07 | 998,127.8 | 10.29 |
| North-east | 24,221.9 | 51,545.4 | 48,836.8 | 2.13 | 445,941.2 | 8.65 |
| North-west | 62,476.4 | 133,360.3 | 125,912.8 | 2.13 | 1,339,248.4 | 10.04 |
| South Central | 27,994.4 | 55,950.6 | 50,787.4 | 2.00 | 562,005.0 | 10.04 |
| South-east Coast | 31,870.2 | 65,603.4 | 60,334.3 | 2.06 | 719,103.2 | 10.96 |
| South-west | 42,976.9 | 86,469.5 | 80,377.2 | 2.01 | 779,361.3 | 9.01 |
| West midlands | 44,625.4 | 91,659.2 | 86,027.8 | 2.05 | 967,023.1 | 10.55 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 44,490.8 | 94,168.9 | 88,463.5 | 2.12 | 873,790.8 | 9.28 |
| Total | 406,532.4 | 842,502.2 | 785,246.4 | 2.07 | 8,325,492.2 | 9.88 |
| *2009* | | | | | | |
| East midlands | 37,848.4 | 78,830.5 | 74,340.6 | 2.08 | 709,446.1 | 9.00 |
| East of England | 47,479.1 | 96,511.9 | 90,138.4 | 2.03 | 980,306.6 | 10.16 |
| London | 49,732.0 | 102,895.0 | 95,662.6 | 2.07 | 1,025,452.7 | 9.97 |
| North-east | 25,572.3 | 54,790.6 | 52,322.4 | 2.14 | 455,927.8 | 8.32 |
| North-west | 64,994.0 | 139,396.6 | 132,547.8 | 2.14 | 1,362,582.6 | 9.77 |
| South Central | 29,376.3 | 58,787.2 | 53,933.0 | 2.00 | 574,925.1 | 9.78 |
| South-east Coast | 33,447.9 | 68,498.7 | 63,590.5 | 2.05 | 738,975.0 | 10.79 |
| South-west | 45,021.2 | 90,969.7 | 85,284.5 | 2.02 | 800,215.2 | 8.80 |
| West midlands | 46,568.0 | 96,309.1 | 91,079.3 | 2.07 | 992,811.9 | 10.31 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 47,217.2 | 99,010.3 | 93,863.1 | 2.10 | 898,778.2 | 9.08 |
| Total | 427,256.4 | 885,999.5 | 832,762.1 | 2.07 | 8,539,421.2 | 9.64 |

[1] Includes items dispensed to patients holding a pre-payment certificate.

*Source:*

NHS Prescription Services Information System

## Strokes: Health Services

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department plans to spend on long term support services for stroke survivors after the ending of the ring-fencing of funding for the National Stroke Strategy; [3300]

(2) how much was spent on stroke services in each local authority in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [3301]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of support services for stroke survivors on *(a)* their quality of life and *(b)* the number of hospital admissions. [3273]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The National Stroke Strategy was published in 2007 in order to provide advice, guidance and support for commissioners, strategic health authorities, the voluntary sector and social care to improve services across the whole stroke pathway.

To support implementation of that strategy, £45 million additional central funding was made available from 2008-09 to 2010-11 as grants to local authorities for support to stroke services survivors and their carers. This funding was over and above the general funding local authorities receive to provide social care support for people in their areas. Funding for the period 2011-15 is subject to the spending review.

The NAO revisited stroke services in 2009 and in its report "Progress in improving stroke care" (February 2010) it found that, views on the quality of longer term care were variable, ranging from very good to very poor. They also reported that many local authorities had used the stroke grants to commission support from the voluntary sector for stroke survivors, their families and carers identifying 268 such contracts in 2009 compared with 164 in 2005. However, we have no information on the impact of such services on hospital admissions.

When assessing people for support, local authorities generally provide services on the basis of an assessment of the degree of disability a person has rather than on a medical diagnosis. We therefore do not have information on the overall amount of money they have spent on support for stroke survivors, many of whom will also have other contributing causes to their disabilities. However, the list of allocations made to local authorities from the three year £45 million stroke grant has been placed in the Library.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he had with carers prior to the decision to end the ring-fencing of funding for stroke services. [3302]

**Mr Burstow:** The decision, as announced recently by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was taken as part of a wider Government initiative to remove £1.7 billion of grant ring fencing to enable councils to make local decisions around how to deliver essential front line services more flexibly, such as stroke services. The coalition Government value the role of carers and their important contribution to society, and commits the Government to look at providing greater support to the carers.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department paid to farmers in *(a)* England, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* Bassetlaw under the Single Payment Scheme in 2009. [3345]

**Mr Paice:** As of 16 June 2010, £1,830,966,409.73 has been paid under the 2009 Single Payment Scheme (England only).

The Rural Payments Agency does not explicitly record information on payments to farmers on a regional basis. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost, therefore we are unable provide a reply to parts *(b)* and *(c)* of this question.

Further information may be found at

www.cap-payments.defra.gov.uk/

where details of recipients of CAP subsidy payments are reported. The details included relate to all CAP scheme payments, including the Single Payment Scheme (SPS), made to beneficiaries during the years 16 October 2007 to 15 October 2008 and 16 October 2008 to 15 October 2009. This information is published annually in April.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department paid to the individual in *(a)* England, *(b)* Nottinghamshire and *(c)* Bassetlaw who received the highest payment under the Single Payment Scheme in 2009. [3346]

**Mr Paice:** The highest claim paid under the 2009 Single Payment Scheme (England only) was £2,395,356.36.

Further information may be found at

www.cap-payments.defra.gov.uk/

where details of recipients of CAP subsidy payments are published on a single website. The details included relate to all CAP scheme payments, including the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). Details due to be published in April 2011 will include payments made for 2009 Single Payment Scheme between 16 October 2009 to 15 October 2010.

The Rural Payments Agency does not explicitly record information on payments to farmers on a regional basis. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost, therefore we are unable provide a reply to parts *(b)* and *(c)* of this question.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers received payments under the Single Payment Scheme in Bassetlaw in 2009. [3347]

**Mr Paice:** The Rural Payments Agency does not explicitly record information on payments to farmers on a regional basis. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost, therefore we are unable provide a reply to this question.

Further information may be found at

www.cap-payments.defra.gov.uk/

where details of recipients of CAP subsidy payments are published on a single website. The details included relate to all CAP scheme payments, including the Single Payment Scheme (SPS), made to beneficiaries during the years 16 October 2007 to 15 October 2008 and 16 October 2008 to 15 October 2009.

### Animal Health: Expenditure

**Harriett Baldwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Animal Health Agency has spent on *(a)* veterinary services, *(b)* management and consultants and *(c)* computer programmes and IT in each year since its inception. [3127]

**Mr Paice:** The amount spent by the Animal Health Agency in each of these categories is displayed in the following tables in £000s.

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Veterinary Services* | | | | | |
| (external) | | | | | |
| Official Veterinarians (excluding Animal Health veterinary staff) | 23,519 | 25,273 | 16,774 | 20,953 | 21,802 |
| Temporary Official Veterinarians | 1,296 | 932 | 126 | 25 | 5 |
| | 24,815 | 26,205 | 16,900 | 20,978 | 21,807 |
| (internal) | | | | | |
| Animal Health veterinary staff | 14,550 | 15,753 | 14,906 | 15,226 | 14,832 |
| | 39,365 | 41,958 | 31,806 | 36,204 | 36,639 |
| *Management* | | | | | |
| Board member costs given as a banding as actual cost not disclosed | 620-625 | 745-750 | 690-695 | 670-675 | 900-905 |
| Number of members during the year | 9 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 12 |
| *Consultants* | | | | | |
| Contractor costs—as per the operating cost statement | 1,804 | 3,216 | 3,708 | 3,555 | 9,948 |
| Contractor costs—capitalised and therefore included in IT capitalised costs below | — | 1,100 | 2,200 | 4,500 | 4,300 |
| | 1,804 | 4,316 | 5,908 | 8,055 | 14,248 |
| *Computers programmes and ST* | | | | | |
| IT—resource costs | 1,703 | 4,459 | 5,496 | 2,303 | 3,736 |
| IT—costs centrally recharged by DEFRA for use of IT infrastructure | 7,020 | 6,879 | 7,086 | 9,217 | 9,425 |
| IT—capitalised costs—includes capitalised contractor cost above | 1,882 | 4,902 | 16,756 | 18,103 | 14,667 |
| | 10,605 | 16,240 | 29,338 | 29,623 | 27,828 |

*Source:*
Animal Health Annual Report and Accounts

## Cereals

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what grain reserves the UK held on 31 March 2010; [3789]

(2) what her policy is on the maintenance of strategic grain reserves. [3790]

**Mr Paice:** The latest National Statistics produced by DEFRA on the tonnages of wheat, barley and oats held on farms in England and Wales and wheat, barley, oats and maize held by UK ports, co-operatives and merchants were released on 22 April 2010 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

It is important to note that stocks held on farms relate to England and Wales on 22 February 2010, and stocks held at ports, co-ops and merchants relate to the UK on 28 February 2010. In previous years the stock level figures related to the end of March.

*Cereal stocks held on farms in England and Wales at the end of February 2010*

*Thousand tonnes*

| | *Own grown* | *Bought in* |
|---|---|---|
| Wheat | 4,781 | 28 |
| Barley | 1,119 | 26 |
| Oats | 202 | 4 |

*Cereal stocks held in ports, co-ops and merchants in the UK at the end of February 2010*

*Thousand tonnes*

| | *Home grown* | *Imported* |
|---|---|---|
| Wheat | 1,083 | 116 |
| Barley | 848 | [1]— |
| Oats | 79 | [1]— |
| Maize | 3 | 54 |
| Barley and oats imported[1] | — | 2 |

The Government have no plans to hold reserves of food. An assessment of UK Food Security was published in August 2009 (and updated in January 2010).

## Coastal Areas: Environment Protection

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the funding of Pathfinder projects. [3335]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA has made £7.6 million available to 15 coastal authorities under the Pathfinder programme this year to test innovative approaches to adapting to coastal change. Future funding for projects such as this will be considered as part of the forthcoming spending review.

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in which areas she plans further coastal defence measures; and if she will make a statement. [3336]

**Richard Benyon:** In 2010-11 the Environment Agency and coastal authorities plan to construct 41 English coastal schemes (each costing over £250,000) to address coastal flood risk or erosion. These are listed in the following table.

The total investment in these coastal schemes during 2010-11 is £70 million. Some of these will take several years to complete.

Plans for future years will depend on the Spending Review.

| *Project Name* | *EA Region* | *Operating Authority* |
|---|---|---|
| High Knocke to Dymchurch SD - Frontage A | Southern | EA |
| Lineshore 2010 to 2015 | Anglian | EA |
| Central Area Detailed Design and Construction | North West | Blackpool BC |
| Redcar | North East | EA |
| Shaldon and Ringmore FDS | South West | EA |
| Eastbourne Beach Management - 5 yr Plan (Yr 1) | Southern | Eastbourne borough council |
| Humber: BAE Works to East Clough | North East | EA |
| PEVENSEY Bay Sea Defences PPP | Southern | EA |
| Hull TSB Drive Sync | North East | EA |

| *Project Name* | *EA Region* | *Operating Authority* |
|---|---|---|
| Humber East Halton Marshes/ Skitter | Anglian | EA |
| Realignment of Littlehaven Sea Wall - Phase 2 | North East | South Tyneside Council |
| Selsey and Wittering Beach Recharge (beneficial use of maintenance | Southern | Chichester District Council |
| Holland Haven Sea Wall (Gunfleet Boating Club frontage) | Anglian | Tendring District Council |
| Whitby East Pier Extension Urgent Works | North East | Scarborough Borough Council |
| Steart Managed Realignment | South West | EA |
| Haldon Pier, Torquay, Structural Repairs and Rock Armouring | South West | Torbay Council |
| Truro Tidal Defences Including FFA | South West | EA |
| SEASALTER to Graveney Sea Defences | Southern | EA |
| Margate Flood and Coast Protection Scheme | Southern | Thanet District Council |
| BIS5 - Beach Improvement Scheme Stage 5 (linked to stage 4) | South West | Bournemouth Borough Council |
| Great Yarmouth Compartment C | Anglian | EA |
| Weston-super-Mare Sea Defences | South West | North Somerset Council |
| Denge Beach Management 10/11 | Southern | EA |
| Cullercoats Bay Design and Construction | North East | North Tyneside Council |
| Bridlington Spa Royal Princes Parade Seawall Construction | North East | East Riding of Yorkshire Council |
| Humberston Fifties Coastal Defence upgrade | Anglian | North East Lincolnshire Borough Council |
| Medmerry Managed Realignment | Southern | EA |
| Wave Reflection Wall Remediation Works | North West | Lancaster CC |
| Lyme Regis Coast Protections Works Phase 4 | South West | West Dorset District Council |
| Great Yarmouth - Lifeboat | Anglian | EA |
| Portsea Island - Flood Cell 1: Southsea - Development | Southern | Portsmouth City Council |
| Humber: Swinefleet | North East | EA |
| Portsea Island - Flood Cell 4: North Portsea Island - Development | Southern | Portsmouth City Council |
| Greatham North | North East | EA |
| Walberswick to Dunwich Frontage | Anglian | EA |
| Canvey Gravity Sluices (Works) | Anglian | EA |
| Bulverhythe Capital Maintenance 2007/08 - 2011/12 | Southern | EA |
| Sandwich and Deal PAR Preparation | Southern | EA |
| Minsmere Flood Management Project | Anglian | EA |
| PETT Shingle Renourishment PH2-6 | Southern | EA |
| Shorehamadur Tidal Walls West Bank | Southern | EA |

## Common Fisheries Policy

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether she plans to secure an extension to the competence of UK fisheries management within its territorial waters during the forthcoming review of the Common Fisheries Policy; [3526]

(2) if she will seek to extend the UK fisheries limits in future negotiations at EU level on common fisheries policy reform. [3530]

**Richard Benyon:** In negotiations on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the UK will be seeking to enable individual member states to manage marine resources more effectively through better integration of fisheries management with other marine policies. With that in mind, we will be seeking changes that enable member states to develop and implement measures to manage marine ecosystems more efficiently beyond the six mile limit. We also want to see reform of the CFP delivering a simplified and decentralised decision-making framework that allows those closest to a fishery to take decisions on appropriate management measures.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has undertaken a cost-benefit analysis of extending UK competence to manage an exclusive UK inshore fishing effort within a limit of *(a)* 12 and *(b)* 24 nautical miles. [3527]

**Richard Benyon:** The UK has not undertaken a specific cost benefit analysis with respect to extending the UK competence to manage an exclusive UK inshore fishing effort. We are, however, working with others across the EU to shape the European Commission's proposals on Common Fisheries Policy reform. We will wish to examine carefully the Commission's emerging options, which we expect to see over the next few months. It is not yet clear how these will affect member states' control over inshore fishing effort but I am keen to promote decentralisation of fisheries management away from the current centralised regime. Of course, any reassessment of member state competence would need to safeguard historic access rights and the benefits of relative stability in member states' shares of fishing opportunities, including rights that UK fishers currently benefit from in other member states' territorial waters.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her priorities are for the forthcoming negotiations on the review of the Common Fisheries Policy. [3529]

**Richard Benyon:** We are developing the UK's negotiating priorities for reform of the common fisheries policy (CFP). We are clear that any reform should:

Devolve fisheries management away from current centralised control over detailed regulations, for example through regionalisation. We support the EU Commission's general direction in this area and will be pressing to ensure the result is a decentralised and simpler decision-making process.

Enable and encourage fishermen to better plan for their businesses for the long-term, giving them more control, incentives and responsibility for managing fish stocks and helping to tackle over-capacity where it exists.

Integrate fisheries more effectively with management and conservation of marine resources more widely. As pressures and competing demands for use of marine resources grow, it is increasingly important for fisheries management to be joined up with the management of other marine activities. We need flexible mechanisms under a reformed CFP that enable us to meet our international conservation obligations.

### Fisheries: Northern Ireland

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been allocated to Northern Ireland from the European Fisheries Fund; and how much matched funding from the Government such allocations have attracted. [3304]

**Richard Benyon:** The EU budget for the European Fisheries Fund's programme for 2007-13 is €4.3 billion of which the UK is allocated €138m (£120 million). From this allocation, Northern Ireland receives €18m (£16 million). Matched funding for Northern Ireland is the devolved responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

### Floods: Chesterfield

**Toby Perkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the status is of each flood remediation project for the River Rother and River Hipper *(a)* planned, *(b)* approved and *(c)* implemented since 2007. [3815]

**Richard Benyon:** The Environment Agency is currently taking forward the Avenue Coking Works Remediation Project, which incorporates a flood storage area. This will provide protection from the River Rother to more than 100 properties and businesses in Chesterfield. Further schemes to provide protection from the River Rother are being assessed.

The Environment Agency has proposed a scheme that will provide protection from the River Hipper to areas of Chesterfield. Subject to funding approval, detailed design for the scheme will begin in 2012-13, with construction planned to begin the following year.

### Inland Waterways: Repairs and Maintenance

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure British Waterways has incurred on maintaining and developing waterway network infrastructure in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of such expenditure was on infrastructure not classified as a principal asset in each such year; what estimate she has made of such expenditure in each of the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [3316]

**Richard Benyon:** British Waterways does not record information in the format requested.

British Waterways has spent £334 million on major infrastructure works and dredging over the last 10 years, of which £218 million (65%) relates to work on what they classify as "principal assets". In addition British Waterways has spent £347 million on third party funded restoration and regeneration projects.

The analysis of the expenditure over the last ten years which is derived from their published annual report and accounts is appended. It has only been since 2006-07 that BW have sub-analysed other operating expenditure further to disclose how much is spent directly on waterway network general maintenance and customer service activities. The analysis by year is also provided.

British Waterways is currently considering its expenditure plans for the next three years which will need to take account of the outcome of the government's forthcoming spending review and its estimates of future commercial income.

### Land Drainage: Finance

**Mr Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the environmental effects of the recent reduction in funding for land drainage maintenance by the Environment Agency. [3764]

**Richard Benyon:** There has not been any specific reduction in Government funding for land drainage maintenance. DEFRA provides grant in aid to the Environment Agency for flood and coastal erosion risk management, which may include land drainage maintenance, where this is the most effective means of reducing flood risk. The Environment Agency considers the environmental effects of its decisions on a case by case basis when deciding how to get best value for money from DEFRA's investment.

### Landfill

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish her response to the consultation on landfill bans. [3593]

**Richard Benyon:** The Consultation on the Introduction of Restrictions on the Landfilling of Certain Wastes closed on 10 June 2010. Responses are currently being collated and analysed. The Government will publish a response to the consultation in due course.

Future policy on reducing landfill will be considered in the context of the Government's recently announced review of waste policy in England.

### National Parks: Finance

**Mr Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what budgetary allocations she has made to each national park for *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [3147]

**Richard Benyon:** Savings to DEFRA's 2010-11 budgets totalling £162 million were recently announced. The revised allocations for each of the national park authorities are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Broads Authority | 4,229,502 |
| Dartmoor | 4,739,642 |
| Exmoor | 3,978,580 |
| Lake District | 7,171,279 |
| New Forest | 6,028,096 |
| Northumberland | 3,311,334 |
| North York Moors | 5,428,266 |
| Peak District | 8,298,814 |
| South Downs | 7,290,000 |
| Yorkshire Dales | 5,398,563 |
| Total | 55,874,076 |

*Note:*
The allocation for the Lake District includes £250,000 for repairs to the rights of way network caused by flooding, and £1,000,000 for refurbishment of office accommodation for the New Forest National Park Authority.

The allocations for 2011-12 will be announced later this year.

### Set-aside Schemes

**Mr Spencer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on the objectives of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment; and if she will make a statement. [3063]

**Mr Paice:** The Government remain strongly committed to the Campaign for the Farmed Environment, which we consider an excellent example of the farming industry taking responsibility for its environmental impacts. The Secretary of State and I met a number of senior representatives of the campaign's partner organisations at the recent cereals show, and look forward to receiving the campaign's Progress Report later this month.

### Waste Disposal

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the forthcoming survey on industrial and commercial waste. [3592]

**Richard Benyon:** The project was initiated in February 2010 and fieldwork began in early June 2010. The fieldwork phase is due to complete at the end of October 2010. DEFRA is expecting to receive and publish provisional results by mid October 2010, with the final outputs (i.e. detailed analysis, final report, and final anonymised dataset) due in early December 2010.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Pay

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 53W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [3254]

**Mr Duncan:** Details of the salary range for full-time staff at each civil service grade employed at the Department for International Development (DFID) are provided in the following table.

| *DFID grade* | *Equivalent traditional civil service grade* | *Pay range (London scale)* |
|---|---|---|
| C1 | AO | £22,530 |
| B2 | EO | £25,029-£27,317 |
| B1 | HEO | £30,868-£34,534 |
| B1(D) | Fast Stream | £30,403-£36,377 |
| A2 | G7 | £47,555-£56,293 |
| A1 | G6 | £58,120-£68,221 |
| Deputy Director | G5 | £58,200-£117,750 |

### International Assistance: Water

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will urge the Adaptation Fund Board to prioritise those projects committed to providing sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and hygiene in line with Millennium Development Goal 7. [3156]

**Mr O'Brien:** The Adaptation Fund finances climate adaptation projects that benefit vulnerable communities and are proposed by developing countries. The Board's criteria specify that projects should clearly meet the needs of vulnerable communities but do not prioritise one Millennium Development Goal above the others. Some proposals include access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and hygiene. Others cover issues such as food security, health and disaster risk reduction. The Adaptation Fund Board considers proposals on their merit on a case by case basis.

In "The Coalition: our programme for government", the Government highlighted their commitment to clean water and sanitation, stating that we will prioritise aid spending to ensure everyone has access to these and other services, and will particularly focus on the rights of women, children and people with disabilities.

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to achieve the sanitation targets defined in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. [3157]

**Mr O'Brien:** In "The Coalition: our programme for government", the Government highlighted their commitment to clean water and sanitation, stating that we will prioritise aid spending to ensure everyone has access to these and other services, and will particularly focus on the rights of women, children and people with disabilities.

In the coming months DFID will be reviewing its aid programme to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the MDGs, including the target on clean water and sanitation.

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget for 2010-11 has been allocated for the purpose of meeting the Millennium Development Goal target of providing safe drinking water in sub-Saharan Africa. [3158]

**Mr O'Brien:** In "The Coalition: our programme for government", the Government highlighted their commitment to clean water and sanitation, stating that we will prioritise aid spending to ensure everyone has access to these and other services, and will particularly focus on the rights of women, children and people with disabilities.

Under the previous Government 2.7% of the Department for International Development (DFID) budget was allocated to improving water and sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2010-11.

In the coming months DFID will be reviewing its aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate growth towards the MDGs. Aid spending to improve access to clean water and sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa will be reviewed as part of this process.

### Kyrgyzstan: Internally Displaced People

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist Uzbeki people displaced by the recent violence in Kyrgyzstan; and if he will make a statement. [3619]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is monitoring the situation in Kyrgyzstan closely. We are in regular contact with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross locally and at HQ level. The UK provides core funding to these and many other international humanitarian agencies.

### Kyrgyzstan: Politics and Government

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in the Kyrgyz Republic. [3644]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is monitoring the situation in Kyrgyzstan closely. We are in regular contact with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross locally and at HQ level. As of 18 June, the United Nations estimates that 191 people are dead and 400,000 people have been displaced. The Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs has estimated that 100,000 refugees have crossed the border to Uzbekistan.

### Palestinians: International Assistance

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that aid which it sends to Gaza reaches those who need it; and if he will make a statement. [3488]

**Mr Duncan:** The UK does not send aid directly to Gaza. However, we do fund the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which provides basic services to Gazan refugees such as education, health care and food aid.

Due to restrictions on access UNRWA and other aid organisations have found it difficult to import into Gaza all the items they need to carry out their work effectively. DFID is therefore funding a United Nations team to work with the Government of Israel and aid agencies to facilitate the transfer of goods into Gaza.

The announcement by the Government of Israel of an easing of restrictions, including a move from a list of permitted items to a list of banned goods, is a step in the right direction. We will continue to press the Government of Israel to ensure they deliver on their commitments.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Departmental Internet

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the URL is of each website managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body and agency for which his Department is responsible. [2360]

**Mr Davey:** The information requested is as follows.

*(a)* URLs of websites managed directly by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) are:

www.bis.gov.uk
www.ecommerce-awards.co.uk
www.dtistats.net
www.enemyproperty.gov.uk
www.theredferninquiry.co.uk
www.shareholderexecutive.gov.uk
www.sustainable-construction.org.uk
www.aebc.gov.uk
www.certoffice.org
www.foresight.gov.uk
www.ecochecker.co.uk
www.spire.bis.gov.uk
http://interactive.bis.gov.uk/backingyoungbritain
http://poit.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/poit
www.independent.gov.uk/hereview
www.independent.gov.uk/regulatorypolicycommittee
www.interactive.bis.gov.uk/companycharges
http://interactive.dius.gov.uk/nms/
http://archive.bis.gov.uk/
www.teachusalesson.com
www.interactive.bis.gov.uk/scienceandsociety
www.nationalstudentforum.com
www.whogetsthetip.com

The following websites managed by BIS are shortly to be closed, with content to be moved to:

www.bis.gov.uk
www.interactive.bis.gov.uk/digitalbritain
www.interactive.bis.gov.uk/lowcarbon
www.interactive.bis.gov.uk/unleashingaspiration
www.interactive.bis.gov.uk/nano
www.interactive.bis.gov.uk/advancedmanufacturing

*(b)* URLs for websites managed by the Department's NDPBs and agencies This list of sites is drawn from the centrally-managed Government Website Database. To contact each NDPB to provide this information would incur disproportionate costs.

The Department's Executive Agencies (Companies House, the Insolvency Service, the Intellectual Property Office, the National Measurement Office and the Skills Funding Agency) will reply separately.

*Advisory NDPBs:*

*Council for Science and Technology*
www.cst.gov.uk

*Low Pay Commission (LPC)*
www.lowpay.gov.uk

*Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property (SABIP)*
www.sabip.org.uk

*Executive NDPBs:*

*Advantage West Midlands (RDA)*
www.advantagewm.co.uk

*Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)*
www.acas.org.uk

*Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)*
www.ahrc.ac.uk

*Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)*
www.bbsrc.ac.uk

*British Hallmarking Council (BHC)*
www.britishhallmarkingcouncil.gov.uk

*Capital for Enterprise (CfEL)*
www.capitalforenterprise.gov.uk

*Competition Commission*

www.competition-commission.org.uk

*Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)*

www.cskills.org.uk

*Consumer Focus*

www.consumerfocus.org.uk

*Design Council*

www.designcouncil.org.uk

*East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)*

www.emda.org.uk

*East of England Development Agency (EEDA)*

www.eeda.org.uk

*Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)*

www.esrc.ac.uk

*Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)*

www.epsrc.ac.uk

*Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB)*

www.ecitb.org.uk

*Hearing Aid Council (HAC)*

www.thehearingaidcouncil.org.uk

*Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)*

www.findfoundationdegree.co.uk

*Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)*

www.fdf.ac.uk

*Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)*

www.hethatworks.co.uk

*Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)*

www.hefce.ac.uk

*Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)*

www.jisc.ac.uk

*Investors in People UK (now part of UK CES)*

www.investorsinpeople.co.uk

*Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO)*

www.lbro.org.uk

*London Development Agency (LDA)*

www.lda.gov.uk

*Medical Research Council (MRC)*

www.mrc.ac.uk

*National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA)*

www.nesta.org.uk

*Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)*

www.nerc.ac.uk

*North West Development Agency (NWDA)*

www.nwda.co.uk

*North West Development Agency (NWDA)*

www.nwdabusinessfinance.co.uk

*Office for Fair Access (OFFA)*

www.offa.org.uk

*One North East (RDA)*

www.onenortheast.co.uk

*Regional Development Agencies (RDAs)*

www.englandsrdas.com

*Research Councils UK (RCUK)*

www.rcuk.ac.uk

*Simpler Trade Procedures Board (SITPRO)*

www.sitpro.org.uk

*Simpler Trade Procedures Board (SITPRO)*

www.unedocsuk.co.uk

*South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)*

www.seeda.co.uk

*South West of England Regional Development Agency*

www.southwestrda.org.uk

*Student Loans Company (SLC)*

www.studentloans.gov.uk

*Student Loans Company (SLC)*

www.slc.co.uk

*Student Loans Company (SLC)*

www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk

*Technology Strategy Board (TSB)*

www.ktponline.org.uk/

*Technology Strategy Board (TSB)*

www.innovateuk.org

*Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES)*

www.ukces.org.uk

*Yorkshire Forward (RDA)*

www.yorkshire-forward.com

*Tribunal NDPBs:*

*Central Arbitration Committee (CAC)*

www.cac.gov.uk

*Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT)*

www.catribunal.org.uk

*Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 18 June 2010:*

I am replying on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 9 June (UIN 2360), to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, concerning the URLs of the websites managed by the Department and its agencies.

The Skills Funding Agency was set up as an agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on 01 April 2010. As a new agency, we are working with the Department to get our new websites listed on the Government Website Database:

www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk

http://iagreview.org.uk

http://engage.traintogain.gov.uk

www.theia.org.uk

www.escs-isb.org.uk

www.thedataservice.org.uk

We are also working with the Department to converge or close the following websites for which we have been responsible and which are currently listed on the Government Website Database:

http://www.trainingqualitystandard.co.uk

www.advice-resources.co.uk

http://www.nextstepstakeholder.co.uk

www.miap.gov.uk

soon to become:

www.learningrecordsservice.org.uk

http://www.learnerpanel.co.uk

http://www.careervaluestool.com

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

www.nationalskillsacademy.co.uk

www.traintogain.gov.uk

http://nationalemployerservice.org.uk

www.safelearner.info

http://ukrip.co.uk

http://nln.ac.uk/

http://ukonlinecentres.com/

*Letter from Peter Mason, dated 18 June 2010:*

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 9 June to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking for the URLs of each website managed by the Department and the non-departmental public bodies and agencies for which it is responsible.

The URLs for each of the websites managed by the National Measurement Office are:

www.nmo.bis.gov.uk

www.rohs.gov.uk/

www.rohs.gov.uk/batteries/

www.rohs.gov.uk/EUP/

www.rohs.gov.uk/energylabelling/

*Letter from Gareth Jones:*

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 9 June 2010, UIN 2360 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The URL for Companies House's website is:

www.companieshouse.gov.uk

*Letter from John Alty, dated 11 June 2010:*

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 09 June 2010, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The URL of websites managed by the Intellectual Property Office are:

1) Intellectual Property Office

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/

There are three sub sites linked to this website which carry their own identity:

The Company Names Tribunal

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/cna.htm

The Copyright Tribunal

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/ctribunal.htm

and Intangible Assets Network

www.ipo.gov.uk/ian

2) Strategic Board for Intellectual Property Policy

http://www.sabip.org.uk/

3) Cracking Ideas

http://www.crackingideas.com

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 10 June 2010:*

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, what the URL is of each website managed by (a) his Department and (b) each non-departmental public body and agency for which his Department is responsible.

The Insolvency Service is an executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The Insolvency Service directly manages a website which uses the following URL:

www.insolvency.gov.uk

## Departmental NDPBs

**Owen Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance he has issued to *(a)* Companies House and *(b)* other executive agencies on the identification of areas in which budgetary savings may be made. [3182]

**Mr Davey:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to all partner organisations associated with his Department, including Companies House, on 26 May setting out expectations around cost savings to be made in the financial year 2010-11. A copy will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The 2010 Spending Review framework published by HM Treasury on 8 June also provides details on the process and guiding principles that will underpin the Government's approach to setting spending limits over the Spending Review period. A copy of the framework is available on the HM Treasury website.

## Departmental Pay

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [2181]

**Mr Davey:** An element of the BIS overall pay award for staff below the senior civil service grade is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award. There are two types of award:

1. In-year payments, which consist of special individual performance awards and non-pay rewards that recognise strong performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations.

2. Annual performance awards that are paid to members of staff who receive a highly successful performance rating.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

Performance awards for the SCS are part of the pay system across the whole senior civil service, and are used to reward high performance sustained throughout the year, based on judgments of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. The performance related pay scheme is designed to help drive high performance and support better public service delivery. Performance awards are non-consolidated and non pensionable. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body. For the year 2009-10 the Senior Salaries Review Body has confirmed that up to 8.6% of the BIS SCS pay bill may be used for non-consolidated performance awards for the SCS. No payments have yet been made, but BIS does not intend to use the full amount available.

BIS was formed through a machinery of government change that occurred in June 2009. The Department was created by merging the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). The following information provides combined details for the performance payments made to staff below the SCS from each of the former Departments.

| | *Amount spent on performance awards (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 1,764,834 |

### Departmental Reviews

**Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Government Departments: reviews, what reviews his Department is undertaking; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* timescale of each is. [2589]

**Vince Cable:** The coalition agreement sets out in detail the Government's future plans, including the key reviews it will be undertaking. My Department will bring forward detailed information about these reviews in due course.

### Graduates: Employment Schemes

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to maintain the previous Government's policy of a Graduate Guarantee. [738]

**Chris Grayling:** I have been asked to reply.

The Graduate Guarantee was introduced by the previous Administration as a temporary measure, for 2009 graduates who reach six months unemployment.

This Government are committed to providing targeted support and will be introducing a single, integrated work programme to deliver personalised support for the unemployed, including appropriate graduates. Until this is introduced, we will ensure that unemployed graduates receive the support they need.

### Higher Education

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which higher education institutions *(a)* he and *(b)* the Minister of State for Universities visited in May 2010. [2954]

**Mr Willetts:** In May 2010, I visited the University of Birmingham.

### Insolvency: Witham

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized businesses in Witham constituency were declared insolvent in each year since 1997. [3747]

**Mr Davey:** Official statistics covering corporate insolvencies for England and Wales are not currently available at sub-national level, or differentiated by firm size.

Corporate and personal insolvency statistics are published quarterly as a National Statistics press release by the Insolvency Service; they are available at:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm

Latest headline figures currently are those for Quarter 1 2010; Q2 2010 will be available from 6 August 2010.

### One NorthEast: Hartlepool

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which projects in Hartlepool constituency received funding from One NorthEast in each of the last five years. [3454]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department allocates budgets to Regional Development Agencies. The agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the accountability and financial framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the regional economic strategy and their corporate plans. The Department does not hold details of individual projects supported by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

### Post Office: ICT

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times Ministers in his Department had discussions with Post Office Ltd on the Horizon system in the last five years. [3750]

**Mr Davey:** The Horizon system is an operational responsibility of the company and I have had no such discussions. It is an established convention that Minsters of one Administration cannot see the documents of a previous Administration. I am therefore unable to provide the information requested.

### Post Offices

**Chris Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will require Post Office Ltd to publish the methodology it uses to calculate whether a post office reinstatement would have a negative effect on the remaining network in that area; [3678]

(2) which post offices have been re-opened under the Post Office Ltd Local Funding Guidance; [3679]

(3) what plans Post Office Ltd has to open new post offices in urban areas; and what criteria it will use in determining the viability of a business case for opening such a post office. [3680]

**Mr Davey:** I have asked David Smith, the Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

### Post Offices: Witham

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many Post Office branches there were in Witham constituency in each year since 1997; [3746]

(2) if he will *(a)* review and *(b)* report to the House on the effectiveness of the Post Office's Horizon system. [3751]

**Mr Davey:** I have asked David Smith, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

### Unemployment: Young People

**Damian Collins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many 16 to 24 year olds were not in education, employment or training in the Shepway district council area in each year since 1997. [3824]

**Mr Hayes:** The following table provides estimates of the number and proportion of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education employment or training (NEET) in Kent local education authority. This information is from the Annual Population Survey and covers the period 2000 to 2008, with 2008 being the most recent estimate available.

We are unable to produce NEET estimates for 16 to 24-year-olds at district council level due to sample sizes being insufficiently large. Due to incomplete data, estimates are not available prior to 2000.

*People aged 16-24 years old not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Kent local education authority*

| | *Number NEET* | *Percentage NEET* | *95% confidence interval (pp)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 13,000 | 11 | +/-3 |
| 2001 | 17,000 | 14 | +/-3 |
| 2002 | 18,000 | 13 | +/-3 |
| 2003 | 18,000 | 15 | +/-4 |
| 2004 | 16,000 | 12 | +/-2 |
| 2005 | 19,000 | 13 | +/-2 |
| 2006 | 23,000 | 16 | +/-4 |
| 2007 | 24,000 | 17 | +/-4 |
| 2008 | 25,000 | 17 | +/-4 |

All of the estimates provided are subject to sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their confidence intervals[2] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of +/-4 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 4pp above the estimate and 4pp below the estimate.

The Department for Education (DfE) is responsible for policy covering NEETs aged 16-18 years old and therefore this answer from BIS is partially on behalf of DfE.

[1] Age used is respondents academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Those given are 95% confidence intervals.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 24 June 2010*

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Attorney-General which Ministers in the Law Officers' Departments have been issued with *(a)* a BlackBerry, *(b)* an iPhone, *(c)* another make of mobile telephone and *(d)* a personal digital assistant supplied by the Department. [4114]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney-General and I have each been issued with a BlackBerry.

## JUSTICE

### Children

**Mr Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mothers were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for the offence of child abandonment in each of the last five years. [3763]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice does not hold centrally details of the relationship between an offender and the victim other than where the offence is specified separately in law. I can therefore provide details on the number of defendants who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for 'abandoning a child under two years', England and Wales 2004 to 2008 (latest available), which are shown in the table as follows.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in October 2010.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for abandoning a child under two years[1], England and Wales 2004 to 2008[2,3,4,5]*

| *Sex* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Males* | | | | | |
| Proceeded against | 4 | 3 | 1 | — | — |
| Found guilty | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| *Females* | | | | | |
| Proceeded against | — | 1 | 3 | 2 | — |
| Found guilty | — | — | 2 | 1 | — |
| *Total* | | | | | |
| Proceeded against | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | — |
| Found guilty | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 |

[1] Offence under the Offences against the Person Act 1961, sec27.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July, and August 2008.

[5] The numbers found guilty may exceed those proceeded against as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year to the defendant being found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year, or the defendant was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

*Source*:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mr Khalid Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 211W, on departmental mobile phones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier is of each BlackBerry device issued to Ministers in his Department. [4003]

**Mr Djanogly:** The BlackBerrys issued to Ministers in the Ministry of Justice each *(a)* have a purchase cost of £50, *(b)* are on a network provided by Vodafone, *(c)* are on the Vodafone BlackBerry Voice and Data tariff, and *(d)* are supplied by Vodafone.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has received recent representations from Crown Dependency *(a)* Governments and *(b)* legislatures advocating a transfer of departmental responsibility for such dependencies from his Department to another Government department. [4007]

**Mr Djanogly:** To date I have not received any representations from the Crown Dependencies' Governments advocating a change in departmental responsibility.

### Fines: Surcharges

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been raised by the £15 victim surcharge in each year since its inception. [4111]

**Mr Blunt:** The victim surcharge was introduced on 1 April 2007. Between 2007-08 to 2009-10 the victim surcharge raised £21,079,310. It produced approximately £3.8 million in 2007-08, £8.1 million in 2008-09 and £9.2 million for 2009-10.

### Prisoners: Gender Recognition

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the Prison Service Order on gender dysphoria to be publicly available. [3350]

**Mr Blunt:** At the end of March 2010 the NOMS Equalities Group submitted a draft of the Prison Service Instruction (PSI) on the care and management of transsexual prisoners for legal advice. The NOMS Equalities Group is currently working through the advice provided. A final draft will be ready for ministerial approval after the summer recess and will be made publicly available as soon as possible thereafter.

### Rape: Victim Support Schemes

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons ring-fencing of funding for independent third sector rape crisis organisations has been removed following the combination of separate funding streams from his Department and the Government Equalities Office for 2010-11. [3578]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice has, for the last four years, allocated £1.25 million per annum to voluntary sector organisations supporting victims of sexual violence. This is funded through the Victim Surcharge, which is a £15 levy on all fines imposed by the courts following a criminal conviction. It is a condition of the Ministry of Justice's financial settlement that the income from the surcharge must be used to provide non-financial support to victims of crime and their families.

For the current financial year only, the previous Secretary of State for Justice agreed with the then Minister for Women to combine this funding from the Ministry of Justice with £1 million from the Government Equalities Office, creating a single fund for organisations that support victims of sexual violence. All other arrangements for the funding, including any ring-fencing, remain unchanged. This one-off combined fund was created to provide a more joined-up approach to the sector, to simplify the application process for organisations bidding for money and to deliver better value for money overall.

### Refugee Migrant Justice

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date he was first informed that Refugee Migrant Justice had been declared insolvent. [4057]

**Mr Djanogly:** Paul Gray, chair of the board of trustees of RMJ, wrote to my right hon. and learned Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice on 14 June to inform him that having taken professional advice he had convened a special meeting of the board on 15 June. He informed my right hon. and learned Friend at that meeting they would be obliged to sign formal papers to place the charity into administration.

### Refugee Migrant Justice: Legal Aid

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to ensure the prompt payment of legal aid to Refugee Migrant Justice by the Legal Services Commission. [4109]

**Mr Djanogly:** As I am sure the hon. Member is aware, RMJ is now in administration. Where any provider ceases to have a legal aid contract for whatever reason, the LSC will make an assessment of any potential financial issues in the individual circumstances. This will include payments on account made, claims to be billed and whether for example the provider will be continuing to conclude cases for existing clients. It may transpire that RMJ owes money to the LSC.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Border Agency: Manpower

**Andrew Percy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* senior executive officers and staff at Grade 7 and *(b)* higher executive officers there were in the UK Border Agency (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [1473]

**Damian Green** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* The number of *(a)* senior executive offices and staff at Grade 7 and *(b)* higher executive officers in the UK Border Agency and its predecessor the Border and Immigration Agency is set out in the following table. Data are only available from the present United Kingdom Border Agency personnel system (ADELPHI) back to 2005. 1997 figures for the grades covered have been obtained from the archive of the previous personnel system PIMMS, and are illustrative.

Following machinery of government changes today's UK Border Agency has a wider function than its predecessors. It now includes UK Visas (from Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and HMRC Detection. Because of these changes the 2005 and 2010 figures are not directly comparable.

| | *Immigration Directorate[1] (31 March 1997)* | *Border and Immigration Agency (31 March 2005)* | *United Kingdom Border Agency[2] (31 May 2010)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grade 7[3] | 33 | 229 | 577 |
| Senior executive officer (SEO) | 114 | 466 | 1,492 |
| Higher executive officer (HEO) | 550 | 1,242 | 3,241 |
| Total in grades shown | 697 | 1,937 | 5,248 |

[1] In 1997 the immigration function was carried out by a Home Office directorate rather than a Home Office agency, these figures will therefore undercount other Home Office staff in these grades earning out functions on behalf of the directorate, which would now be carried out within the agency. These staff can not be distinguished in archived data except at disproportionate cost.

[2] Machinery of government changes have included UK Visas (formerly F and CO) and Detection formerly (HMRC) within these figures. The 2005 Border and Immigration Agency figures do not include these functions. The UK visa grade material included in this total was supplied by International Group support and is at 1 April 2010.

[3] All figures are rounded active FTE. Grades shown include specialist equivalents.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what properties the UK Border Agency leases overseas; whether those buildings are shared with other Government Departments and non-departmental public bodies; and whether she plans to cancel the leases on those properties. [3522]

**Damian Green:** The overwhelming majority of property occupied by the UK Border Agency overseas is linked to the processing of visa applications. None of these buildings are leased by the UKBA; they are all leased and managed by the FCO, as part of a package of support services provided to the FCO for which a central charge is made. It is common practice for office accommodation to be shared with the FCO, where this represents the best use of the available office space. Over the last three years the UKBA have rationalised their footprint overseas by concentrating work into a reduced number of decision-making posts. They are currently investigating how further, similar savings can be made.

The remainder of UKBA overseas property is linked to the operation of the juxtaposed control. The UK Border Agency rents residential and business properties on the continent for use by officials who operate from ports, terminals and office sites. These properties are not shared with other bodies and there are no plans to cease operation of these immigration controls.

### Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to bring Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 into effect. [3782]

**James Brokenshire:** Domestic violence is unacceptable. I will be discussing the specific issue of the implementation of Section 9 with colleagues across Government as we develop our broader approach to tackling violence against women and will report in due course.

### Drugs: Misuse

**Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the National Drug Strategy in reducing the number of people dependent on illegal drugs. [3717]

**James Brokenshire** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* The ultimate goal of all drug treatment should be to help drug misusers become free of their addiction.

A number of improvements have been made to the drug treatment system over the last decade such as access to treatment and a reduction in the numbers of individuals dropping out, building on the expert view that drug misusers should spend at least 12 weeks in treatment to derive some benefit.

The latest data show that, in 2008-09, 210,815 adults were in contact with treatment services. Of those, 194,572 (92%) were effectively engaged for 12 weeks or more, or if leaving before 12 weeks did so free of dependency. In 2008-09, 24,970 completed treatment free of dependency. The Home Office Drug Treatment Outcomes Research Study has shown that for every £1 spent on drug treatment, an estimated £2.50 worth of benefits were obtained.

The Public Accounts Committee's Thirtieth Report—Tackling Problem Drug Use—published on 24 March contained a key conclusion that the Home Office evaluates the spending and effectiveness of measures aimed at tackling problem drug use. The Department's response will be published shortly as a Treasury Minute.

### Entry Clearances

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to implement the decision in visit entry clearance appeals VA/15347/2009 and VA/15353/2009 (New Delhi references 2649457 and 8) which were allowed on 6 July 2009. [4154]

**Damian Green:** I confirm that the applicants have now been invited to submit their passports to the visa section in New Delhi, with a view to the visas being issued as soon as possible. The UK Border Agency regrets the delay in these cases.

### Identity Cards

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of sending notification letters to those who have purchased or applied for identity cards. [3816]

**Mrs May** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* The estimate for the cost of sending notification letters to all existing identity card holders is £20,000.

These costs include printing, postage and enclosure costs and the cost of secure extraction of names and addresses from the National Identity Register.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of her Department's staff to be redeployed as a consequence of the end of the identity card programme. [4178]

**Damian Green:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 552W.

### Immobilisation of Vehicles

**Diana R. Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to bring into force the provisions in the Crime and Security Act 2010 relating to regulation of the conduct of the private vehicle wheel-clamping industry; and if she will make a statement. [3991]

**Lynne Featherstone:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 385W.

### Offences against Children: Internet

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the subjects investigated under Operation Ore have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of offences related to the investigation; what the status of the investigation is; and if she will make a statement. [3798]

**James Brokenshire:** The investigations generated by Operation Ore were initiated as a consequence of nationally co-ordinated disseminations to local UK police forces.

The decision to proceed to investigation on these cases was a matter for the relevant chief constable. Information on Operation Ore is not collated centrally on a routine basis.

However, from information supplied by UK police forces to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre and its precursor agency, the National Crime Squad (NCS), more than 1,750 individuals were convicted, and another 700 people received a formal caution.

### Police: Stun Guns

**Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the process of authorisation is for *(a)* acquisition, *(b)* possession and *(c)* use of Tasers by police. [3743]

**Nick Herbert:** In England and Wales, the acquisition, deployment and use of Tasers is an operational matter for chief officers of police. Conducted Energy Devices are classified as 'prohibited weapons' by virtue of section 5 Firearms Act 1968. Police officers in England and Wales while acting in their capacity as such, are exempt from the requirements of the legislation and do not need any additional legal authority to possess the Taser.

Taser is available to Authorised Firearms Officers (AFO) in England and Wales as a less lethal alternative for use in situations where a firearms authority has been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the Association of Chief Police Officers Manual of Guidance on the Management, Command and Deployment of Armed Officers. Since 20 July 2007 Taser has been deployed by AFOs outside of a firearms authority where officers are facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves and/or the subject(s). Since 1 December 2008, Taser is also used in similar circumstances by specially trained units who are not authorised firearms officers.

### Rape: Warrington

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested on suspicion of rape in Warrington in each of the last five years. [3827]

**James Brokenshire** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* The information requested on arrests is not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) at main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and sexual offences. It is not possible to separately identify arrests for individual offences such as rape.

### Smuggling: Ports

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mandatory checks UK Border Agency staff carry out for *(a)* firearms, *(b)* drugs, *(c)* illegal entrants into the UK and *(d)* trafficked people at (i) Calais and (ii) other ports with ferry connections to the UK. [4159]

**Damian Green:** Checks for firearms and drugs on passenger and freight traffic routed through all ports with ferry connections to the UK are conducted by the UK Border Agency on the basis of risk profiles and intelligence.

All passengers and crew entering the UK are examined for immigration purposes at all ferry ports. The UK Border Agency uses intelligence, trend and risk profile to identify illegal entrants and those who have been trafficked.

All Border Force officers undergo trafficking awareness training to help them identify those who might have been trafficked persons. If there are reasons to believe that a person has been trafficked the case is referred to the police.

The UK Border Agency at the channel ports utilises a range of technologies to search for people; heartbeat detectors, passive millmetric wave imaging, $CO_2$ probes and body detection dogs.

The UK Border Agency, SOCA and police agencies on both sides of the channel have created a UK-France Joint Intelligence Unit which operates to crack down on the criminals behind illegal migration through Calais.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts Council England: Finance

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding from his Department the Arts Council holds in its reserves. [3556]

**Mr Vaizey:** The value of the Arts Council's reserves at 31 March 2009 stood at £18.4 million. Following the recent reductions to 2010-11 budgets, the Arts Council will use £9 million of its reserves in 2010-11 to mitigate the impact of these reductions on frontline arts organisations. It has also been agreed that a further £7 million of these reserves will be returned to DCMS. These measures mean that the Arts Council's reserves will be reduced to £2.4 million.

### Bingo: Manpower

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of people who are employed in bingo clubs. [3980]

**John Penrose:** The information requested is available in the Gambling Commission Industry statistics. The latest data for 2008-09 is available at the following website:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/pdf/industry%20statistics%202008-2009%20-%20August%202009.pdf.pdf

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 148W, on departmental mobile phones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier is of the mobile phone issued to each Minister in the Department. [3995]

**John Penrose:** The Department uses Nokia mobile phones and BlackBerrys, which are primarily used for data, although some do have the voice function enabled.

As two year contracts have been entered for the mobile phones and BlackBerrys, we have not incurred any costs for the handsets. Our mobile network provider, is Vodafone and our BlackBerry provider is O2. Mobile phones are on the Teamwork Government tariff, and BlackBerrys are on the Standard tariff.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review; [3634]

(2) how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3656]

**John Penrose:** The work to review and renegotiate contracts will be taken forward over the coming months, led by the Department's existing procurement team of three staff and supported by colleagues who are users of the goods or services involved in individual contracts as needed. They will also be supported by project staff from Cabinet Office as well.

### Listed Buildings: Compulsory Purchase

**Mr Buckland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many buildings in England listed as *(a)* Grade 1 and *(b)* Grade 2 he has purchased by means of a compulsory purchase order since 1992. [3783]

**John Penrose:** The records held by this Department, dating back to April 2006, indicate that DCMS has not purchased any listed buildings via a compulsory purchase order during this period. To obtain information on the number of listed buildings purchased by DCMS by means of a compulsory purchase order between 1992 and 2006 would incur disproportionate cost.

### National Lottery: Grants

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much and what proportion of lottery funding he expects to be allocated to the Big Lottery in 2010-11. [3557]

**John Penrose:** The Big Lottery Fund will receive 50% of Lottery income in 2010-11. On current projections, this would amount to £732 million, though the actual amount will depend on the level of lottery ticket sales. Out of this sum, Big Lottery Fund is contributing £172 million to the Olympic transfers.

### Television: Advertising

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to end contract rights renewal undertakings. [3554]

**Mr Vaizey:** Responsibility for decisions on the future of contract rights renewal undertakings rests with the UK's independent competition authorities. The Competition Commission's report on its review of whether the undertakings should be varied was published on 12 May 2010. The Government are considering representations it has received suggesting that it should take some form of action in relation to the contracts rights renewal undertakings.

These representations are being considered in the wider context of the Government's aim to reform the regulatory regime in the media sector.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Pensions

**Michael Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to review the pension entitlement of regular members of the armed forces who were discharged before 5 April 1975 after fewer than 22 years' service. [4144]

**Nick Harvey:** No. Providing pensions for life this group, even if only paid from a future date, would cost hundreds of millions of pounds. In addition, this issue cannot be considered in isolation. Any changes applied to the armed forces schemes would raise similar legacy issues across all public sector schemes, with financial implications running into billions of pounds.

### AWE Aldermaston

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 93W, on the Atomic Weapons Establishment, whether his Department has requested a defence environmental impact assessment exemption direction for the proposed new hydrodynamics facility, Project Hydrus, at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston. [3574]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence is currently in the process of requesting a Defence Environmental Impact Assessment Exemption Direction for Project Hydrus from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

### Departmental Pay

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [2184]

**Dr Fox:** Senior civil service (SCS) pay is managed by the Cabinet Office and performance incentives are paid primarily as non-consolidated performance payments.

All satisfactory performers at SCS level were eligible to be considered for a non-consolidated performance award. In financial year 2009-10, permanent members of the SCS received performance awards totalling £1,594,500, which was within the pay-bill ceiling of 8.6%.

Senior fixed term appointees (FTAs) are recruited from outside the civil service. They are on individual contracts and have a higher percentage of pay set to performance awards. In financial year 2009-10 senior FTA received performance awards totalling £838,393.

For staff below the SCS, performance awards are paid to staff who meet the eligibility criteria.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) operates an in-year non-consolidated special bonus scheme (SBS), which rewards eligible MOD civilians for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of a professional qualification the use of which benefits MOD and the individual. Additionally, Ministry of Defence police officers may be awarded a payment for exceptional performance when dealing with particularly demanding one-off tasks or situations, unpleasant one-off tasks or situations, or important one-off tasks or situations.

End of year non-consolidated performance related pay awards made to staff below the SCS in financial year 2009-10 totalled £40,240,963. SBS awards made to staff below the SCS in financial year 2009-10 totalled £3,990,953.

This response excludes information on staff below the SCS in MOD Trading Funds that have separate pay delegations.

### North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what structural reforms to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation he is seeking. [4060]

**Dr Fox:** If NATO is to succeed as a modern security alliance, it needs the capability and flexibility to adapt to new threats, with leaner, more efficient and more effective structures. At a meeting of NATO Defence Ministers on 10-11 June, I was encouraged that progress is being made on reforming its headquarters and rationalising its agencies. But as I made clear to the Secretary-General and to colleagues, NATO's Command Structure is also a key priority: it is too big, too static and too much is not optimised for the challenges we now face. Defence Ministers will review options for a revised structure in October.

### Puma Helicopters

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable he has set for the Puma helicopter upgrade programme; and how many airframes will be available on completion. [4059]

**Peter Luff:** The Puma upgrade programme is progressing to schedule and is expected to be complete by the end of 2014 with 28 airframes being modified.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review. [3645]

**Mr Paterson:** The reductions in public expenditure recently announced by HM Treasury do not impact directly on any current policy or contractual responsibilities of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO). No contracts between the Northern Ireland Office and current suppliers are, therefore, under review as a result of the recent announcement. The Department does, however, keep procurement under review at all times to ensure value for money.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3667]

**Mr Paterson:** The reductions in public expenditure recently announced by HM Treasury do not impact directly on any current policy or contractual responsibilities of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO). No contracts between the Northern Ireland Office and current suppliers are, therefore, under review and no staff are engaged on renegotiation as a result of the recent announcement. The Department does, however, keep procurement under review at all times to ensure value for money.

## WALES

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Tom Blenkinsop:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 12W, on departmental mobile phones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier is of the mobile phone issued to each Minister in her Department. [3996]

**Mrs Gillan:** The mobile telephones issued by my Department to Ministers are obtained through the central procurement arrangements provided by the Ministry of Justice. Under this arrangement, the telephones are on the standard Government tariff operated by Vodafone, and incur a purchase cost of £50 and a monthly line rental charge of £2 plus VAT. The current telephones are made by Nokia.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Landfill

5. **Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on banning the use of landfill. [3941]

**Mrs Spelman:** The Government's aim of moving towards a zero waste economy includes reducing the amount of recyclable and biodegradable waste we send to landfill. How best to do this will be part of the review of waste policies I announced last week but my instinct is not to introduce an outright ban because of the unintended consequences this might cause. There is an economic and environmental imperative to reduce the amount going to landfill and to recover as much valuable material as we can.

### British Waterways

7. **Mr Virendra Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of British Waterways. [3943]

**Richard Benyon:** I made a statement on 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 4WS, on inland waterways policy for England and Wales. The Government consider civil society has a valuable role to play in delivering public services as part of the big society. We will be looking, in detail, at options for a third sector model which would be appropriate for British Waterways, including the possible inclusion of Environment Agency navigations. No decisions will be taken until after the spending review.

### Government Food: Farm Assured Sources

10. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to increase the proportion of Government food procured from Farm Assured sources. [3946]

**Mr Paice:** We intend to do considerably better than the previous Government. We are committed to ensuring that food procured by Government Departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meets British or equivalent standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has written to ministerial colleagues asking them to look closely at how they can help to meet this objective.

We do not believe that it is acceptable to use taxpayers' money to buy food produced to lower standards than we expect of our own producers.

### Biodiversity

20. **Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to increase levels of biodiversity; and if she will make a statement. [3956]

**Mrs Spelman:** Biodiversity is one of my highest priorities. I will be taking action domestically, through a White Paper on the natural environment and will promote green spaces and wildlife corridors to restore and increase biodiversity. At an international level, I will ensure the UK shows leadership in this International Year of Biodiversity by working to achieve a global agreement on a new biodiversity framework at the meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya in October.

### Icelandic Volcano: UK Environment

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the effects of the eruptions of the active Icelandic volcano on the natural environment in this country. [3940]

**Richard Benyon:** DEFRA has been assessing the impact of volcanic ash from Iceland's volcano on the natural environment. Air, water and herbage samples from across the UK are being analysed for elevated levels of contaminants from the ash. Results indicate levels well below those which may cause adverse effects. DEFRA is monitoring the situation closely and making plans for further volcanic activity, including eruptions of greater magnitude.

### Farm Animal Welfare

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to promote farm animal welfare. [3950]

**Mr Paice:** We are committed to achieving high standards of animal welfare and are working through the detail of policies to ensure that we accomplish this.

### Water and Sewerage Charges

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to reduce the number of households spending more than 3% of their income on water and sewerage charges. [3959]

**Richard Benyon:** The Government are examining the recommendations made in the Walker review of charging for household water and sewerage services, ahead of taking decisions on next steps. This includes the recommendations on water affordability.

### Farmers: Young People

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to encourage young people to enter the farming industry. [4009]

**Mr Paice:** The most important change needed to encourage young people to enter farming is to ensure that the industry is publicly supported and recognised as important by the Government. The Government have pledged to encourage increased food production and development of our food processing sector.

In addition DEFRA supports Fresh Start, an industry-led initiative to encourage and support new entrants into farming, including those involved in family succession, and to help established farmers think about how they can develop their business in the future in the light of CAP reform.

DEFRA also supports the industry-led Agri-Skills Strategy which aims to promote the importance of skills in making a profitable and sustainable industry fully capable of meeting the demands and challenges of agriculture in the 21st century. Increasing the profitability and professionalism of farming will make it an increasingly attractive career choice for young people.

### Food: Security

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to increase food security. [4010]

**Mr Paice:** An assessment of UK Food Security was published in August 2009 (and updated in January 2010) which shows that the UK enjoys a high level of food security. It is one of our priorities to ensure a secure, environmentally sustainable and healthy supply of food in the face of future challenges.

### Wood: Imports

**Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on proposed EU legislation to control imports of illegally-felled timber. [3869]

**Mr Paice:** The UK is a strong supporter of EU legislation to eliminate the flow of illegal timber onto the market—commonly called the Due Diligence Regulation. The EU is close to agreement on a strong regulation that will include a prohibition to prevent illegal timber from entering the EU market. We are working with other EU member states, the Commission, and the European Parliament to finalise this agreement.

The UK is also providing support to voluntary bilateral trade agreements between timber producing countries and the EU. These agreements require timber imports from signatory countries to be licensed to prove that they have been legally harvested.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### House of Commons Staff: Pay

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission how many staff of the House Service in each Department are remunerated at a rate above that of hon. Members. [4101]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The basic salary payable to Members is £65,738 per annum. As at June 2010, 83 employees were paid an annual salary at a rate above this figure. The breakdown by Department is:

| *Department* | *Staff numbers* |
|---|---|
| Department of Chamber and Committee Services | 49 |
| Department of Facilities | 7 |
| Department of Information Services | 12 |
| Department of Resources | 15 |
| Total | 83 |

Details of the staff pay bands and staff pay arrangements are available on the parliamentary intranet. The salaries of Members of the Management Board are disclosed in the House of Commons: Administration annual accounts.

### Parliamentary Questions: Email

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission whether the House of Commons Commission has considered the merits of enabling the *Official Report* to accept written answers to parliamentary questions by e-mail. [4146]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The Commission recognise the merits of securing more efficient ways of transferring written material, including written answers to parliamentary questions, from Government Departments to the House. The *Official Report* and PICT participated in a pilot scheme, led by the Leader of the House's Office, to establish within Government Departments a common, structured means of transferring written material to the House, but that initiative was unsuccessful.

House officials involved in the Procedural Data Programme are now vigorously pursuing a new approach, with the aim of establishing a secure electronic means of supplying questions to, and receiving answers from, Government Departments.

The House expects to realise the following benefits from e-delivery of questions and answers: less use of paper; less reliance on scanning technology, and thus reduced support and maintenance overheads; less time required to process hard copies of answers in the *Official Report*, generating staffing efficiencies; and increased speed of publication.

The other current recipients of paper copies of answers—the Library, the Press Gallery and, of course, Members themselves—will be consulted on suitable methods of delivery of answers in the future.

### UK Youth Parliament:

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission what recent representations the House of Commons Commission has received from the UK Youth Parliament on holding an annual sitting in the Chamber. [4147]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** Although the Commission has not received any such representations, the UK Youth Parliament has raised this possibility with the Speaker and others. Preliminary discussions are taking place about another meeting in the Chamber in the autumn. Such a meeting will require the approval of the House, as occurred on 16 March 2009.

## TRANSPORT

### A5: M1

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the A5-M1 link; what previous estimates have been made of the cost of the scheme; and when each such estimate was made. [3833]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]*: Due to the uncertainty of certain costs when building a road, the Highways Agency calculates the maximum and minimum forecast spend on the scheme to create a range estimate. A figure in the middle of the range estimate is then used for planning purposes. The current scheme range estimate for the A5-M1 Link is £134 million to £189 million with a mid range estimate of £162 million. This is based on a detailed review of scheme costs in September 2009.

In relation to previous estimates, the July 2008 scheme range estimate was £121 million to £156 million with a mid range estimate of £139 million. This was based on M1 J10-13 being constructed as a widening scheme.

The March 2009 scheme range estimate was £160 million to £218 million with a mid range estimate of £189 million. This was based on an initial assessment of the cost of A5-M1 Link following the decision to change M1 J10-13 from a widening to Managed Motorways scheme with the resulting transfer of some statutory diversion and structure works at Junction 11A to the A5-M1 scheme.

### Bedford Station

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the redevelopment of Bedford railway station as part of the Thameslink Programme has been designated non-critical. [3509]

**Mrs Villiers:** As part of the coalition Government's commitment to prudent spending, work to create an additional platform and new ticket hall at Bedford will be deferred as these facilities are not needed until the London Bridge station redevelopment is completed. This work is currently scheduled to be completed at the end of 2016.

We anticipate that platform extension work allowing 12 car trains to stop at Bedford will be finished by December 2011 as planned.

### Bus Services: Ashfield

**Gloria De Piero:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will allocate funding to support the development of additional bus services serving Ashfield constituency. [4053]

**Norman Baker:** It is for local authorities to decide the best use of resources to fund local bus services. The Department for Transport has no plans to provide specific direct funding for additional bus services in Ashfield.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for future levels of expenditure on the national concessionary bus travel scheme. [3911]

**Norman Baker:** The level of future funding for concessionary travel will be a matter for the spending review. The Government's commitment to protect free bus travel for older people is set out in the coalition agreement. The right to free bus travel for both older and disabled people is enshrined in primary legislation.

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Ministers in his Department have been issued with *(a)* a BlackBerry, *(b)* an iPhone, *(c)* another make of mobile telephone and *(d)* a personal digital assistant supplied by the Department. [1422]

**Norman Baker:** The following equipment has been issued to Ministers:

| | | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Minister* | *BlackBerry* | *iPhone* | *Other mobile* | *PDA* |
| Secretary of State Phillip Hammond | [1]1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Minister of State Theresa Villiers | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Parliamentary Under-Secretary Norman Baker | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Parliamentary Under-Secretary Mike Penning | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] On order.

Neither PDAs nor iPhones have ever been issued to Ministers.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* documents and *(b)* other information for which (i) his Department and (ii) its associated public bodies are responsible are published or provided in the UK in languages other than English; for what reason each such publication is required to be made available in a language or languages other than English; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the translation work so incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [1771]

**Norman Baker:** The Department for Transport makes documents and other information available in languages other than English to ensure individuals understand their rights and have access to the Department's services in accordance with human rights and race relations Acts, and to meet the requirements of the Welsh Language Act 1993. Information on individual translated documents and other information for the Department and associated public bodies can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Documents are considered on a case by case basis with regard to their purpose and likely readership and are translated only where necessary.

The estimated cost of translations commissioned by the Department for the most recent financial year available is set out in the following table.

*Translation costs*[1]

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| | *2009-10*[2] |
| Central Department (DFT(C)) | 46.0 |
| Driving Standards Agency (DSA) | [3]11.6 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) | 89.4 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) | [4]0.0 |

*Translation costs*[1]

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| | 2009-10[2] |
| Highways Agency (HA) | 2.0 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) | 8.8 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) | 0.8 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) | [3]85.5 |

[1] These figures may include translations into English, but the majority of translations are from English into another language.

[2] Data for 2009-10 expenditure are provisional and subject to audit—2009-10 resource accounts have yet to be published.

[3] 2008-09.

### East Coast Railway Line

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the future of the East Coast Main Line route. [2944]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Secretary of State has received a number of representations from Members of this House and others regarding plans for future timetable changes on the East Coast Main Line. He has also received representations regarding the possibility of co-operative organisations bidding for the next Inter City East Coast franchise.

### Electric Vehicles

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to encourage the use of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [3100]

**Norman Baker:** We announced in the coalition agreement that the Government will mandate a national charging infrastructure for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Electric and plug-in hybrid vehicle are currently supported through the taxation system: drivers of such vehicles are exempt from paying vehicle excise duty and fuel duty; businesses which purchase electric and low carbon cars can claim enhanced capital allowances and people who use electric cars as their company car pay lower rates of 'benefit in kind' taxation.

In addition to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' recent announcement of support for Nissan's manufacturing investments, the Department for Transport is currently considering the provision of direct support for purchases of low-carbon vehicles, including electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, and will make a statement as soon as possible.

### First Capital Connect

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the standard of passenger train services provided by First Capital Connect on the Thameslink franchise. [3742]

**Mrs Villiers:** The most recent assessment of First Capital Connect's passenger service performance was for the period between 2 and 29 May 2010. Performance has been improving with First Capital Connect achieving a public performance measure figure of 93.5%.

The most recent National Passenger Survey dated spring 2010 assessed First Capital Connect as providing an overall passenger satisfaction rate of 76%.

### London Underground: Finance

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes there will be made in the overall budget of London Underground in 2010-11 as a consequence of the spending reductions announced on 24 May 2010. [1673]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport has consulted the Mayor of London on a proposed reduction to Transport for London's grant in 2010-11. London Underground is a subsidiary of Transport for London (TfL) and it is for the Mayor to decide how to accommodate the reduction in TfL's grant.

The in-year reduction in grant funding to TfL is equivalent to just over 1% of TfL's total 2010-11 budget.

### Midland Metro

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much he plans to allocate to the *(a)* extension and *(b)* future development of the Midland Metro through Dudley to Brierley Hill. [2383]

**Norman Baker:** Until the spending review has been concluded, the Department for Transport is unable to provide any assurance on its intention to fund any extensions to the existing Midland Metro Line One.

### Motorcycles: Driving Tests

**Mr Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the Driving Standards Agency cancelled the motorcycle trainer workshops due to be held in *(a)* Twickenham on 26 January 2010 and *(b)* Leeds on 29 January 2010. [3879]

**Mike Penning:** The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) planned these motorcycle trainer workshops with the expectation that at least 250 trainers would attend each event. By mid January fewer than 30 trainers had registered for each event. DSA therefore decided to cancel as to continue with the much smaller numbers would not have represented good value for money.

DSA is considering whether these events are the most effective way to engage and communicate with motorcycle trainers in the longer term. Given the current fiscal climate, there are no plans to reinstate these events during the current financial year.

### Railway Stations: Greater London

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department made an assessment of the merits of providing a station stop at Brixton on the East London Line London Overground extension. [3868]

**Mrs Villiers:** The case for a new station at Brixton High Level was assessed in 2007 by Network Rail as part of the South London Route Utilisation Strategy. Because of its elevated position the new station was estimated to cost around £25 million. A decision was therefore made, by Network Rail, that it could not be proceeded with at this time because of the cost involved.

A decision to implement the new station is ultimately a matter for the Mayor and Network Rail.

### Railways: Electrification

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work has been commissioned in relation to the electrification of the *(a)* Liverpool-Manchester line and *(b)* London-Swansea line; and if he will make a statement. [3499]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* On both routes, Network Rail have carried out survey and early design work. Network Rail expect the projects to reach the "GRIP 2" stage later this summer, which means that the scope and costs will have been developed in sufficient detail to support progress to the next stage of the development process.

The Government support rail electrification as it helps to reduce carbon emissions and cut running costs. However, our priority is tackling the fiscal deficit and Ministers will consider the full range of proposed transport projects in parallel with the spending review process to ascertain what is affordable.

### Railways: North East

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effect of cost savings by Network Rail on rail services in the North East in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [1167]

**Mrs Villiers:** Network Rail is required by the independent Office of Rail Regulation's five-year periodic review settlement to deliver efficiency savings of 24% by the end of March 2014. It is for Network Rail to determine how to make those efficiency savings.

Network Rail has now indicated that, subject to the consent of the Office of Rail Regulation, it will reduce its spending by a further £100 million on interventions which yield lower value for money relative to other programmes. The benefit to Government will be realised this financial year but the reduction in expenditure will be implemented over the remainder of the five-year Control Period 4 to the end of March 2014.

Network Rail has not given any indication of what portion of this reduction in expenditure will expect the North East of England. We do not expect this reduction to affect rail services.

### Railways: North West

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department (1) has *(a)* established a timetable and *(b)* allocated funding for the implementation of the Northern Hub project; [1589]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the implications for the rail network of the proposed Northern Hub project; [1590]

(3) whether he plans to undertake a review of the Northern Hub project; and if he will make a statement. [1622]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport has worked closely with Network Rail during the Northern Hub Rail Study. Network Rail is currently carrying out further development work on the Northern Hub, which includes a detailed review of each element of the project. The Department notes Network Rail's assessment of the implications for the rail network and is aware of the benefits to the northern economy that investment in the Hub and rail services would bring. No funding has yet been allocated for the implementation of the Northern Hub. The scope for future rail infrastructure investment will depend on decisions that will be made in the comprehensive spending review in the autumn.

### Road Signs and Markings: Sponsorship

**Mr Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of allowing the private sponsorship of road signs; and if he will make a statement. [2308]

**Norman Baker:** The private sponsorship of roadside infrastructure is a matter for local highway authorities. However, it is not the lawful function of traffic signs to serve as advertisements and the Government have no plans to assess the merits of allowing advertising on traffic signs. The information displayed on traffic signs and the number of signs provided must be kept to a minimum to avoid unnecessary driver distraction.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to remove the link between the allocation of local authority highways funding and the requirement to observe national priorities. [3079]

**Norman Baker:** No such explicit link exists, though in general terms, the coalition Government have made plain their intention to allow greater freedom to local authorities.

No specific decisions will be taken on future funding for local authority highways until after the spending review.

### Rolling Stock

**Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make more transparent the process for determining when extra rolling stock will be deployed to relieve passenger overcrowding on the railway network. [3721]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Government recognise the importance of addressing overcrowding problems on the rail network but all policy interventions are subject to appraisal which considers whether they provide value for money to the Exchequer. The appraisal process follows the guidance published by the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/

The process of determining rolling stock allocation to train operators involves complex commercial negotiations with industry parties, and is handled confidentially in order to secure the best outcome for the taxpayer and the rail user.

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many carriages have been added to train services in West Yorkshire in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [3329]

**Mrs Villiers:** In the past five years, additional carriages have been deployed on rail services in West Yorkshire in two phases.

In December 2006 an additional 12 Class 158 carriages were deployed for crowding relief in West Yorkshire.

In December 2008 eight Class 158 carriages were added to enable a new Leeds-Nottingham hourly service to be introduced.

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many carriages have been added to train services in London and the South East in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [3330]

**Mrs Villiers:** As part of the High Level Output Specification process, the following additional carriages are now being operated on services in London and the south-east:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| London Midland | 28 |
| National Express East Anglia | 16 |
| First Capital Connect | 112 |
| Southeastern | 48 |
| Southern | 6 |
| Total | 210 |

Furthermore, in December 2009, 174 class 395 carriages were introduced on high speed train services in Kent. Transport for London has ordered 216 new vehicles for services on the North and East London lines, and most are in service.

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to add carriages to train services in West Yorkshire in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [3331]

**Mrs Villiers:** Following the National Audit Office Report entitled 'Increasing Rail Capacity', the Department for Transport is undertaking a reappraisal of the previous Government's programme for additional rolling stock, including a reassessment of the business case for each procurement in the light of the changed circumstances. This will review all the options. The proposals relating to services in West Yorkshire will be part of this reassessment.

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent instructions he has issued in relation to the provision of additional carriages on the rail network; and if he will make a statement. [3485]

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will issue a rolling stock plan giving details of his Department's plans to manage future trends in passenger numbers on the rail network. [3608]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Government are assessing their policy for addressing crowding on the rail network in the light of overall spending constraints over the next few years. Proposals by the previous administration for the purchase of additional carriages will be appraised and assessed for affordability, in parallel with the process for determining the Department for Transport's budgets for the spending review period.

### Severn Bridge: Repairs and Maintenance

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Severn River Crossing plc on liabilities for long term repairs when the bridges are taken into public ownership; and if he will make a statement. [1528]

**Norman Baker:** The Highways Agency meets regularly with Severn River Crossing plc (SRC), which is the concessionaire for the Severn Crossing, to ensure handover arrangements are in place when the concession ends. SRC carries out a rigorous schedule of inspections to identify maintenance requirements and is required to maintain and repair defects in compliance with the concession.

At handover the condition of the bridges must be to an agreed standard, to enable the bridges to remain in a serviceable condition for the remainder of their design lives. The risk for defects which existed before the start of the concession, such as corrosion on the M48 Severn Bridge cables, was not transferred to SRC and remains the responsibility of the Secretary of State.

Once the crossings have been handed back to the Secretary of State, the cost of future maintenance and repairs will be the responsibility of the Government.

The SRC operates under a Concession Agreement (CA) which was signed in October 1990. The concession period began in April 1992 and will end when SRC has collected a defined amount of money from toll revenue (£995,830,000 in 1989 prices), or up to a maximum of 30 years. The end date is currently predicted for the first half of 2017.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to respond to the letter of 24 May 2010 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay on his constituent Mrs Nadia McMahon. [4098]

**Mrs Villiers:** I responded to my hon. Friend for Basildon and Billericay on 22 June 2010.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Decentralisation and Localism Bill

**John Healey:** To ask the Prime Minister which Minister will be responsible for introducing the Decentralisation and Localism Bill. [3889]

**The Prime Minister:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will be the Minister responsible.

### Departmental Internet

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Prime Minister what timetable he has set for the review of *(a)* e-petitions and *(b)* other on-line services on the 10 Downing street website. [3993]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the information on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/communicate/e-petitions

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether his adviser on health and safety law and practice, the right hon. Lord Young of Graffham, will receive *(a)* a salary, *(b)* expenses and *(c)* any other payment in that capacity; [4076]

(2) which candidates he considered for the position of adviser on health and safety law and practice. [4077]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the Press Notice issued by my Office on Monday 14 June 2010, a copy of which is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/06/pm-announces-review-of-health-and-safety-laws-51726

Lord Young will not be receiving a salary, expenses or any other payment in relation to his work as my adviser on health and safety law and practice.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Mobile Telephones

**Mr Khalid Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 224W, on departmental mobile telephones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier was in respect of the telephone issued to (i) him and (ii) the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. [4061]

**David Mundell:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The purchase cost of each BlackBerry handset was £250.

*(b)* The network provider for both handsets is Vodafone.

*(c)* Both handsets are on the 'Teamwork + BlackBerry' tariff.

*(d)* Vodafone supplied both handsets.

### Devolution

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions his Department had with the Ministry of Defence on the implications of devolution prior to Royal Assent to the Scotland Act 1998. [4093]

**Michael Moore:** None. As the Member will know, the Scotland Office only came into existence upon the passing of the Scotland Act 1998.

However, defence of the UK and associated industries are very important to Scotland. As such, I intend to speak regularly with the Defence Secretary on range of issues relevant to Scotland, particularly once the implications of the Strategic Defence and Security Review are known.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Children: Maintenance

**Stephen Mosley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents who were paying child support to the Child Support Agency directly from their salary by deduction from earnings orders in financial year 2009-10 lost some or all of their payments after their employer went into receivership. [3080]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents who were paying child support to the Child Support Agency directly from their salary by Deduction from Earnings Orders in financial year 2009-10 lost some or all of their payments after their employer went into receivership. [3080]

The information you requested is not available as the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (the Commission) does not collate this type of information for management information purposes. However, you may find it helpful to know, as at March 2010, it is estimated that 117,600 cases are receiving maintenance via a deduction from earnings order or request.

In England and Wales, if the non-resident parent's employer enters bankruptcy or liquidation, the non-resident parent is responsible for paying any maintenance which was deducted from their wages by their employer and not paid over to the Commission, and for recovering any money deducted from their employer. They can do this through lodging a claim in the insolvency proceedings.

The official receiver or liquidator appointed to look after the affairs of the employer gives employees a comprehensive information pack which should cover every eventuality, including the non-payment of deductions to the Commission. If a non-resident parent has specific questions not covered in this pack, they should contact the official receiver or liquidator directly.

Scottish law is different. Any money deducted by a deduction from earning order remains part of the non-resident parent's wages until the Commission receives it. However the Commission is responsible for claiming the money and the Commission must lodge a claim in the insolvency proceedings for money deducted and not paid over.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* front line and *(b)* other staff were employed by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in the latest year for which figures are available; and what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of employing staff of each type at each of those bodies. [544]

**Chris Grayling:** The number of staff employed by the Department and each of its agencies as at 31 March 2010 is set out as follows:

| | *Jobcentre Plus* | *Pension, Disability and Carers Service* | *Departmental staff (shared services)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Front-line staff | 80,742 | 12,737 | 1,392 |
| Other staff | 1,905 | 1,232 | 10,847 |
| Total | 82,647 | 13,969 | 12,239 |

*Note:*
Staff figures are shown as full-time equivalents.

The Department categorises 'front-line' staff as operational staff serving external customers and other staff directly supporting these functions.

The costs associated with the figures cannot be supplied without disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 362W, on departmental mobile telephones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier was of the BlackBerry devices issued to (i) the Minister for Employment, (ii) the Minister for Disabled People and (iii) the Minister for Pensions. [4065]

**Chris Grayling:** The purchase cost of each handset is £300. The managed service provider is BT and the network provider is Vodafone. The tariff used is the 'Teamworker' tariff—monthly rental and support charges for each handset are £43.75. The costs of the DWP's Blackberry service are higher than that available through the retail market because of additional departmental requirements in relation to security and resilience.

These costs are identical with those incurred for the same service under the previous Government.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review. [3650]

**Chris Grayling:** All areas of DWP third party expenditure are coming under close scrutiny to reduce costs either through contract renegotiation, demand management or collaboration with other Departments to generate economies of scale. This work will be undertaken in accordance with guidance from Efficiency and Reform Group.

The monetary value of all such contracts during 2009-10 was £4.2 billion.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3672]

**Chris Grayling:** All areas of DWP third party expenditure are coming under close scrutiny to reduce costs either through contract renegotiation, demand management or collaboration with other Departments to generate economies of scale. This work will be undertaken by officials across the organisation in accordance with guidance from the Efficiency and Reform Group.

### Employment Schemes: Young People

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the Young Person's Guarantee in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry. [3931]

**Chris Grayling:** The Young Person's Guarantee is still being maintained, and the next release of statistics will be on 11 August.

Statistics are available on the Future Jobs Fund which cover the period from October 2009 to January 2010. They show that there were 940 recorded Future Jobs Fund starts in the Jobcentre Plus west midlands region. The information requested on Coventry is not available.

The Future Jobs Fund created temporary, short-term jobs, and the grants did not include any incentives to move people into permanent posts. The Government are investing £150 million to create 50,000 new apprenticeship places which will equip people with the skills they need and allow people to move into a long-term job. Next year we are also introducing a new single Work Programme which will provide better targeted support and deliver long lasting benefits with a greater focus on sustained employment.

Until the new Work Programme is in place, the Government will ensure that young people continue to receive the support they need.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he plans to take to support young people unemployed for more than six months to find employment; [3932]

(2) what steps he plans to take to support youth employment. [3934]

**Chris Grayling:** The Government aim to have the new Work Programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011. This will help young people move into sustained employment rather than temporary jobs, and everyone, including young people, will have access to a fully integrated and coherent system of back to work support. We are also planning further support for young people, including intensive work experience, more apprenticeships and more further education places.

Although the precise design of the Work Programme is still in development, the Government will ensure that young people receive the support that they need.

### Funeral Payments

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many funeral payments have been reclaimed in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 2000; [2087]

(2) what the value has been of funeral payments reclaimed in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 2000. [2088]

**Steve Webb:** Information regarding funeral payments for Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The available information is in the tables.

*Number of funeral payment claims on which some recovery was made in Great Britain by country and financial year*

| | England | Wales | Scotland |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 990 | 90 | 200 |
| 2001-02 | 720 | 80 | 160 |
| 2002-03 | 1,600 | 140 | 230 |
| 2003-04 | 1,810 | 140 | 250 |
| 2004-05 | 2,060 | 190 | 170 |
| 2005-06 | 2,110 | 170 | 170 |
| 2006-07 | 2,570 | 140 | 170 |
| 2007-08 | 1,990 | 140 | 170 |
| 2008-09 | 1,580 | 140 | 80 |
| 2009-10 | 560 | 60 | 40 |

*Funeral payment recovery amount in Great Britain by country and financial year*

| | | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *Wales* | *Scotland* |
| 2000-01 | 0.56 | 0.06 | 0.13 |
| 2001-02 | 0.41 | 0.05 | 0.12 |
| 2002-03 | 0.86 | 0.06 | 0.15 |
| 2003-04 | 1.00 | 0.07 | 0.14 |
| 2004-05 | 1.16 | 0.10 | 0.11 |
| 2005-06 | 1.09 | 0.08 | 0.11 |
| 2006-07 | 0.85 | 0.05 | 0.09 |
| 2007-08 | 0.57 | 0.04 | 0.08 |
| 2008-09 | 0.61 | 0.05 | 0.06 |
| 2009-10 | 0.17 | 0.01 | 0.04 |

*Notes:*

1. Both tables are for funeral payment claims recovered in full or in part.
2. The number of funeral payments on which some recovery was made has been rounded to the nearest 10 and the amount recovered to the nearest £0.01 million.

*Source:*

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 281W, on funeral payments, if he will increase the maximum amount payable as a funeral payment. [3235]

**Steve Webb:** There are no current plans to increase the maximum amount of £700 payable to cover disbursements. Cremation and burial costs are not subject to this limit and will continue to be paid in full.

### Future Jobs Fund

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what statistical evidence on the effectiveness of the Future Jobs Fund programme he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such item of evidence. [4139]

**Chris Grayling:** We are publishing official statistics covering the take-up of the Young Person's Guarantee, including the Future Jobs Fund. The first release of official statistics, covering the period October 2009 to January 2010, was published in May 2010. A copy of the statistical release has been placed in the Library of the House. The next release of official statistics is planned to take place later this summer.

We plan to conduct a full evaluation of the Future Jobs Fund in 2011.

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have received work placements through the Future Jobs Fund since the programme's inception. [4142]

**Chris Grayling:** The latest official statistics, covering the period from October 2009 to January 2010, show that nationally 8,660 people started jobs funded by the Future Jobs Fund.

### Future Jobs Fund: Barnsley

**Michael Dugher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of assistance from the Future Jobs Fund in *(a)* Barnsley East and *(b)* the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley. [3978]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is not available. However, the most recent Official Statistics covering the period October 2009 to January 2010 show that there were 700 recorded Future Jobs Fund starts in the Jobcentre Plus Yorkshire and Humberside region.

### Future Jobs Fund: Streatham

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many residents of *(a)* the London Borough of Lambeth and *(b)* Streatham constituency have received work placements through the Future Jobs Fund; [4140]

(2) how many individuals have received work placements under the Future Jobs Fund at premises in Streatham constituency since the programme's inception. [4141]

**Chris Grayling:** The requested information is not available. However, across London the latest official statistics, covering the period October 2009 to January 2010, show that 840 people started jobs funded by the Future Jobs Fund.

### Mortgages: Government Assistance

**Gordon Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of bringing into line with the actual mortgage interest rate paid by claimants of benefits under the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme the Standard Interest Rate used to calculate such payments. [3220]

**Steve Webb:** Customer's actual interest rates were used in the past to calculate Support for Mortgage Interest. But that method was abandoned in 1995, in favour of a standard interest rate, which has proved to be far more efficient and straightforward.

The pre-1995 arrangements, where customers' actual rates were used by the Department, were extremely complex to administer, prone to error and added cost. Reverting to that system carries an unacceptably high risk of increased overpayments and inefficiency, is resource intensive, and would not support the Government's aim of simplifying the benefit system.

**Gordon Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made an estimate of the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value of excess payments made under the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme. [3221]

**Steve Webb:** At the current Standard Interest Rate of 6.08%, the Department for Work and Pensions has estimated from a small sample of data that 92% (207,000) of the 225,000 customers who received Support for Mortgage Interest in November 2009 will receive awards in excess of their eligible mortgage interest outgoings.

The Department's systems do not hold information on the actual rate of interest that Support for Mortgage Interest customers pay, so no estimate of the monetary value of excess payments is available.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review. [3633]

**Robert Neill:** The Department is currently reviewing all new and existing contracts. The total value of all contract spend last year was £313 million.

### Departmental Voluntary Work

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the policy of his Department is on the recognition in staff appraisals of staff who undertake voluntary activities outside his Department. [3894]

**Robert Neill:** The Department's guidance on performance management does not require managers and staff to consider volunteering when assessing individual annual performance.

However, the Department promotes a variety of development related volunteering opportunities to enable everyone to play an active part in their community. CLG staff are asked to record these activities within their Personal Learning and Development Plans.

### Housing: Construction

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* local authority housing and *(b)* other housing developments funded from the public purse are under review as a result of the expenditure reduction programme announced for 2010-11; how many houses are to be provided in each such development; how much funding his Department has allocated to each; at what address and in which parliamentary constituency each is located; and if he will make a statement. [2434]

**Andrew Stunell:** The announcement on 24 May set out the immediate savings of over £6 billion that needed to be made as down-payment on the public deficit. Housing budgets for 2010-11 are also subject, however, to the provision of end year flexibility. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced on 17 June that he is reviewing the affordability of a range of end year flexibility agreements made by the previous administration, and an announcement on the outcome of this is expected shortly. A full review of housing projects will be undertaken, once the final funding position for 2010-11 is clear.

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the change to the number of homes to be built under *(a)* the National Affordable Housing Programme, *(b)* the Kickstart scheme and *(c)* the Housing Market Renewal Programme as a result of the budgetary reductions announced on 24 May 2010. [4099]

**Grant Shapps:** The coalition Government are committed to reducing the United Kingdom's budget deficit. It has led us to identify savings across Government, starting with the £6 billion of immediate savings this year that we announced on 24 May, including the £150 million reduction against the previous Administration's housing pledge. Against this £170 million has been provided for 2010-11 to safeguard delivery of around 4,000, otherwise unfunded, social rented homes. It is estimated that the £150 million reduction will reduce the number of affordable housing starts by around 5,000 but these changes will mainly fall to shared ownership and shared equity schemes—not social rented housing.

The Department is consulting on the mechanism by which the Housing Market Renewal reduction of £50 million will take place. In addition we will un-ring fence HMR expenditure in order to provide maximum flexibility at a local level. At this stage the final decision on individual allocations has still to be taken. It will be for individual HMR Pathfinders to manage the reductions and to review the varying impact.

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to councils on assessing levels of housing need in their area. [4145]

**Robert Neill:** Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing and the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Practice Guidance can assist local authorities on how to assess the level of housing need in their area. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to the leader of each local authority in England on 27 May to reaffirm our commitment to abolish regional strategies and return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils. Decisions on housing supply will rest with local planning authorities without the framework of regional numbers and plans.

In the coalition agreement the Government stated that they will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

### Housing: Hull

**Diana R. Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on continuing the housing regeneration scheme for the Orchard Park Estate in Hull under the private finance initiative. [4028]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Orchard Park Estate is a Round 6 Housing PFI project. In July 2009 the council was invited to develop its outline business case following the Department's acceptance of its Expression of Interest.

Since then, the council has reviewed its proposals and has been in discussion with the Homes and Communities Agency regarding the submission of a revised scheme.

The Department will be taking a fresh look in the spending review at how its housing programmes, including Housing PFI, can best offer genuine value for money.

### Local Government Bill

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials have been assigned to work on the Local Government Bill. [3891]

**Robert Neill:** Within my Department, the total number of officials currently working on the Local Government Bill is five full-time equivalents.

### Rented Housing: Private Sector

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take in response to the recommendations of the Rugg Review on the private rented sector; and if he will make a statement. [4124]

**Andrew Stunell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for St Ives (Andrew George) on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 162-63W.

### Social Rented Housing: Standards

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's planned budget for the Decent Homes programme was at the start of the 2010-11 financial year; and whether that budget has been changed since 6 May 2010. [3883]

**Andrew Stunell:** At the start of 2010-11 the Decent Homes budget was £848 million, covering the arm's length management organisation programme: local authority supported capital expenditure; and gap funding arrangements that support some housing transfer schemes. No decisions to change this budget have been taken since 6 May. These figures would have been higher had funding reductions of £150 million not been made to the Decent Housing programme in July 2009.

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on completion of the Decent Homes programme in *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association properties. [3884]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Government believe all social housing should meet a minimum standard of decency, and will continue to invest in the Decent Homes programme as resources allow.

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects the refurbishment of social housing under the Decent Homes programme to be completed. [3885]

**Andrew Stunell:** Completion of the backlog of repairs to council housing depends on additional capital resource. Future funding for the Decent Homes programme will be decided in the context of the Government's Spending Review. These figures would have been lower had funding reductions of £150 million not been made to the Decent Housing programme in July 2009.

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association properties remaining to be refurbished under the Decent Homes programme on 31 March 2012. [3887]

**Andrew Stunell:** Using social landlords' statistical returns for the year 2008-09 we have forecast that 160,000 local authority and 58,000 housing association properties will be counted as non-decent at the end of March 2012. These figures would have been lower had funding reductions of £150 million not been made to the Decent Housing programme in July 2009.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Business: Government Assistance

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized businesses in Witham constituency have received support under each business support scheme operated by his Department since 2007. [3748]

**Mr Prisk:** The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and Business Link hold business support data by local authority district. From these records EEDA has assisted one business in Witham since 2007, which received a £200,000 grant for research and development (R and D). A further three other companies across the

Braintree local authority district have, or are in the process of receiving support, one via an R and D grant and the other two through Proof of Market funding.

Business Link has supported 8,174 SMEs and pre-starts across the Braintree local authority district since the beginning of 2007-08 financial year.

### Co-operatives and Social Enterprises

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* registered social enterprises and *(b)* co-operatives are registered in each (i) region and (ii) parliamentary constituency. [2885]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply.

Like other businesses, there is no single legal form for social enterprise and as a result they are not required to register with any one body. The figures from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' Annual Small Business Survey (2005-07), suggest that there are at least 60,000 social enterprises.

Although we do not collect regional or parliamentary constituency figures for co-operatives, Co-operatives UK reports that there are over 4300 co-operatives in the UK.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future provision of financial support for students aged between 16 and 19 years. [1438]

**Mr Gibb:** I have been asked to reply.

I can confirm that the education maintenance allowance (EMA) will be paid in full this year. In addition, eligible students may also get support for child care costs through the care to learn scheme, and hardship funds are provided to eligible students through discretionary learner support funds. Longer term plans for financial support for students aged between 16 and 19 will be considered in the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn.

### Food: Training

**Mrs Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will meet representatives of the British curry industry to discuss assistance from his Department for training for chefs in the industry. [4258]

**Mr Hayes:** I plan to meet with Sector Skills Councils regularly to discuss their skills needs, including with People 1st who are responsible for skills and training in the hospitality industry. I know that People 1st has ongoing discussions with representatives from the Asian and Oriental catering industry and there is an agreed strategy in place.

### Further Education: Finance

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what criteria will be used to determine the allocation of the £50 million fund for further education capital development announced on 17 June 2010; [3981]

(2) what proportion of the £50 million for further education capital development announced on 17 June 2010, will be allocated to the College of North West London under that programme; [3982]

(3) if he will take steps to compensate further education colleges whose capital budgets have been reduced as a result of Learning and Skills Agency management; and if he will make a statement. [4027]

**Mr Hayes:** This Government fully appreciate the disappointment of those colleges who had planned capital projects put on hold by the Learning and Skills Council due to the lack of funding last year.

This Government cannot undo the previous mismanagement of the FE Capital Programme but will ensure that all efforts are made to ensure it does not happen again.

On the 24 May, as part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement on the £6 billion of efficiency savings to be realised in 2010/11, it was announced that £50 million would be re-prioritised from Train to Gain to further education capital. On the 21 June, Government made a further announcement setting out the details for how this additional money would be invested.

All colleges that received less than £5 million in grant support since 2001 will receive a share of the £30 million renewal grant. This will support approximately 150 colleges in total across the country. Each will receive approximately £225,000, with an expectation that such investment will facilitate considerable additional private finance.

The remaining £20 million will be made available to the same colleges through an enhanced renewal grant. At least 20 colleges will have the opportunity to add to their renewal grant, by bidding to build their total allocation to £1 million. Colleges will be expected to attract substantial additional private finance, resulting in final projects of significant value.

Applications for the enhanced renewal grant will be assessed using key criteria, including the existing condition of bidding colleges' estates and facilities; resulting benefits to learners; and the contribution which each applicant's proposals make to the regeneration of their local community. Projects will be expected to meet exacting design standards, ensuring a built legacy of which all concerned can be proud.

I understand that the College of North West London had previously received capital grant support, and as such, will not be eligible to access the £50 million fund. It is recognised that this may leave ineligible colleges feeling disappointed, but this Government believe it is right to target resource at those who have to date benefited least and believe we will see significant improvements for learners as a result.

### Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what meetings have been held of the higher education sub-group of the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism since his appointment; which officials at each civil service grade attended each meeting; what matters were discussed at each meeting; what further meetings are planned; and if he will make a statement; [2933]

(2) what steps he plans to take to deal with anti-Semitism *(a)* on university campuses and *(b)* in student unions; what recent discussions he has had on the issue with representatives of the Jewish community; and if he will make a statement. [2985]

**Mr Willetts** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* There have been no meetings of the BIS Anti-Semitism and HE Group since my appointment. I have had no meetings so far to discuss anti-Semitism in higher education with representatives of the Jewish community. However, I am due to meet with representatives of the Jewish community and the HE sector to discuss this issue and the work of the BIS Anti-Semitism and HE Group.

There is no place for racism of any form, including anti-Semitism, in higher education, whether on campus or in student unions. Universities have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Government would expect them to vigorously tackle these issues when they arise and have supported institutions with key guidance on promoting good campus relations in the sector.

### Nuclear Fusion: Research

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors spent on nuclear fusion research in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* abroad in each of the last 10 years; what resources and personnel have been provided by the UK to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) international fusion project; and what response he plans to make to the request from the ITER consortium for additional resources. [3740]

**Mr Willetts:** Figures for the Government funding of nuclear fusion research in the UK in each of the last 10 years are given below. The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) took over the responsibility for funding the fusion programme in 2003/04.

Euratom also funds fusion research in the UK through the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. Euratom manages the European fusion research programme, including the European contribution to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) fusion research project. The UK does not provide direct funding to ITER, but contributes indirectly to ITER through its payments to the EU budget.

The Spanish presidency of the EU has set up a task force to examine the ITER funding issue, and its conclusions will be considered by the Council of Ministers in due course.

*Financial Year/UK Government expenditure on fusion research*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2000/01 | 17.0 |
| 2001/02 | 14.4 |
| 2002/03 | 14.6 |

*Financial Year/EPSRC funding for fusion research*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003/04 | 15.9 |
| 2004/05 | 19.4 |
| 2005/06 | 17.3 |
| 2006/07 | 22.3 |
| 2007/08 | 21.7 |
| 2008/09 | 32.6 |
| 2009/10 | 20.0 |

### Peru: EU External Trade

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will discuss with *(a)* the European Commission, *(b)* members of the European Parliament and *(c)* his EU counterparts the environmental and social effects of the proposed EU free trade agreement with Peru; and if he will make a statement. [3811]

**Mr Davey:** The EU-Andean (Peru and Colombia) Free Trade Agreement includes a clause covering environmental and social issues in the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter. This clause commits both the EU and Peru and Colombia to environmental and labour standards rights.

Throughout the negotiations, officials have discussed environmental and social issues with the European Commission, EU counterparts and Members of the European Parliament and, will continue to do so as the agreement progresses.

### Regional Development Agencies

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of Yorkshire Forward; and if he will make a statement. [3872]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government will provide further detail on the future of the regional development agencies and how we propose to take forward our proposals for local enterprise partnerships shortly.

### Unemployment: Young People

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry have found (i) employment or (ii) a work placement as a result of the Young Person's Guarantee. [3930]

**Chris Grayling:** I have been asked to reply.

The Young Person's Guarantee is still being maintained, and the next release of statistics will be on 11 August.

Statistics are available on the Future Jobs Fund which cover the period from October 2009 to January 2010. They show that there were 940 recorded Future Jobs Fund starts in the Jobcentre Plus west midlands region. The information requested on Coventry is not available.

### Vocational Training: West Midlands

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to improve *(a)* youth and *(b)* adult skills in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry. [3933]

**Mr Hayes:** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is seeking to improve skills levels by directing public funding where it will bring the clearest benefits.

We have begun to rebalance skills provision by redeploying £150 million of Train to Gain funding to create 50,000 high-quality apprenticeship places. We are also taking action to set colleges and training organisations free from excessive bureaucracy and direct state control, to give them the freedom to respond better to local needs and to make sure employers and individuals have the information they need to make the best choices about investing in training.

Coventry and the West Midlands will gain from the refocusing of funding towards higher-quality training with clearer benefits and from the improved responsiveness of local training providers.

## TREASURY

### Black Economy

**Dr Pugh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs plans to extend its programme of investigative work in relation to the hidden economy. [3812]

**Mr Gauke:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is committed to cracking down on those who seek to evade tax, including those who operate in the hidden economy. Through development of its data-matching techniques, the Department continues to improve its ability to identify and tackle individuals operating in the hidden economy.

### Capital Gains Tax

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of the threshold of the tax-free allowance for capital gains tax. [3831]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* No assessment has been made of the impact of the annual exempt amount (AEA) for capital gains tax on the economy.

The AEA will continue to rise in line with inflation and will remain at £10,100 for 2010-11.

The estimated cost, which excludes any behavioural response, of the AEA for 2008-09 and 2009-10 is published at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.pdf.

This table is routinely updated following the publication of the Budget.

### Child Benefit

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has made an estimate of the likely level of uptake of child benefit if eligibility for it were to be means-tested; [3722]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the cost of administering child benefit if eligibility for it were to be means-tested. [3777]

**Justine Greening:** The requested information is not available.

### Child Trust Fund

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 188W, on the Child Trust Fund, whether parents and guardians will be able to take control of stakeholder Child Trust Fund accounts previously established by HM Revenue and Customs for a child in receipt of a voucher under the scheme after January 2011. [3805]

**Mr Hoban:** On 24 May 2010 the Government announced that they intend to reduce and then stop all government contributions to Child Trust Funds from January 2011. Child Trust Fund accounts will continue to operate as they do now, whenever they happen to have been opened.

As with all accounts, stakeholder accounts opened by HM Revenue and Customs on behalf of children, now and in the future, are under the full control of the parents or legal guardian of the child. Parents or guardians can transfer the account to a different financial provider or type of account, but the money remains the child's and they cannot withdraw it until they turn 18.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the use by Ministers in his Department of cars allocated from *(a)* his Department's pool and *(b)* the Government car pool which are manufactured in the UK; whether Ministers in his Department are entitled to request the use of a car manufactured in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [2417]

**Justine Greening:** The Treasury policy on the use of Government cars is in accordance with the recently announced ministerial code.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning) on 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 291W.

### Devolution: Northern Ireland

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the devolution of tax-varying powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly. [3539]

**Danny Alexander** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* The Chancellor announced at his Budget statement that the Government will publish a paper on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy, in consultation with the Northern Ireland Executive, including examining potential mechanisms for changing the corporation tax rate in Northern Ireland.

### Double Taxation

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on continuing the provisions of Section 58 of the Finance Act 2008 in respect of UK residents and foreign partnerships; and if he will make a statement; [3745]

(2) whether he plans to introduce proposals to repeal legislative provisions that ensure UK residents retrospectively pay UK tax on their profits from foreign partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [3810]

**Mr Gauke:** UK residents are taxable on their worldwide income wherever it arises—including situations where it arises by way of foreign partnerships. Section 58 of Finance Act 2008 was enacted to help put that beyond doubt. The Government are, in general, opposed to retrospective legislation. However, the retrospective element of section 58 is currently the subject of judicial review by the courts and the Government's view is that it is best dealt with there.

### Financial Services: Regulation

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which body will have responsibility for the *(a)* supervision and *(b)* regulation of UK financial markets in the period to 2012; and if he will make a statement. [4169]

**Mr Hoban:** The Financial Services Authority will continue to regulate and supervise financial services and markets until the legislation implementing the Government's proposals for reform has been enacted and commenced.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct the Banking Commission to consider the future contribution of the financial services industry to increasing the positive effects of economic activity on the natural environment; and if he will make a statement. [4170]

**Mr Hoban:** The remit of the commission is outlined in the commission's terms of reference, which are a matter of public record and can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
banking_commission_terms_of_reference.pdf

As an independent commission, it will be at the commissioners' discretion to consider representations or evidence received on any relevant topic.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanism will be used to appoint the members of the Financial Policy Committee of the Bank of England. [4171]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government will set out more detail on the Financial Policy Committee, including membership and appointments, in a consultation document to be published before the summer recess.

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what time period will elapse between meetings of the Financial Policy Committee of the Bank of England and publication of its minutes. [4172]

**Mr Hoban:** The Government will set out more detail on the Financial Policy Committee, including issues relating to transparency and accountability, in a consultation document to be published before the summer recess.

### Personal Savings: Low Incomes

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the average savings ratio of households on *(a)* low and *(b)* middle incomes. [3231]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of the average savings ratio of households on (a) low and (b) middle incomes. (3231)

ONS compiles and publishes an estimate of the saving ratio for the whole of the household and Non Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH) sector. This is referred to as the household saving ratio for short and is published quarterly in United Kingdom Economic Accounts.

ONS does not compile estimates of the household saving ratio by level of income.

### Public Expenditure: Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the Barnett formula consequentials for Wales of the measures announced by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury in his statement on public spending on 17 June 2010; and whether these consequentials were taken into account in *(a)* the consequential changes announced on 24 May 2010 and *(b)* subsequent announcements. [3709]

**Danny Alexander:** There were no further Barnett consequentials for Wales for the measures announced on 17 June 2010.

### Public Finance

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what mechanism he will consult the public on options for public expenditure cuts; and what information he plans to provide in order to inform that consultation. [1703]

**Danny Alexander:** The Government published their proposals for the spending review on 9 June: The Spending Review Framework (CM 7872).

The Government are determined that this spending review process will be open, responsible and fair and conducted in a way that protects the poorest and most vulnerable in our society; in a way that unites our country rather than divides it. The Budget announced that an engagement programme will launch on 24 June 2010, giving public sector workers and members of the publican opportunity to feed in their ideas for how to reduce spending while protecting the quality of public services.

### Tax Allowances: Christmas

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral answer from the Prime Minister of 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 428, what the evidential basis is for the statement that Christmas parties are supported in the tax system. [3213]

**Mr Gauke:** Section 264 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 exempts from tax the provision by an employer of an annual party or similar annual function open to all employees, such as a Christmas party, subject to an aggregate limit of £150 per person.

### Tax Allowances: Married People

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of whether implementation of the Government's proposals to introduce transferable tax allowances for married couples will take place at a net cost to the Exchequer. [3214]

**Mr Gauke:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bristol East (Kerry McCarthy) on 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 189W.

### Tax Avoidance and Evasion

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward plans for a comprehensive anti-tax avoidance and evasion strategy as a part of his Department's fiscal policy. [3053]

**Mr Gauke:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him on 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 275W.

### Tax Evasion: Publicity

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs has spent on advertising for the purposes of preventing tax evasion in each of the last three years. [3776]

**Mr Gauke:** HM Revenue and Customs spent £633,284 (excluding VAT) on advertising for the purposes of preventing tax evasion last year. There was no expenditure in the previous two years.

### Unpaid Taxes

**Dr Pugh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to increase the rate of recovery of tax debt. [3813]

**Mr Gauke:** The Chancellor announced in the Budget that HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will contract debt collection agencies to recover additional monies from existing tax debts. HMRC estimate that this will lead to an additional £140 million revenue accruing to the Exchequer.

HMRC's 2010-11 Business Plan provides further information on the Department's plans to improve its tax debt recovery operations:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/bus-plan-2010-11.pdf

### VAT

**Vernon Coaker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate how many *(a)* individuals, *(b)* retired pensioners and *(c)* people over the age of 16 in full-time further and higher education who did not pay national insurance contributions in 2009-10 paid value added tax on household purchases. [3287]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]*: The precise information requested is not available.

The Office for National Statistics 2007 mid-year population estimate for the UK indicates there were 38 million individuals aged 16 or over and below state pension age and so liable for national insurance contributions (NICs) if they have earnings or profits from self-employment above the relevant thresholds.

Individuals overstate pension age, of which there were nearly 12 million in 2007, are not liable to pay NICs.

An estimated 29 million individuals paid NICs in 2007-08; the latest year for which information is available. Further details can be found using the Department for Work and Pension's tabulation tool based on a 1% sample of national insurance records:

http://83.244.183.180/NIRS/live/tabtool.html

Estimates for those aged 16 and over in full-time further or higher education paying and not paying NICs are not available.

All individuals pay VAT on any purchases of goods and services that are subject to VAT.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Standards

**Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken to *(a)* process an application for and *(b)* make an award of tax credits. [3775]

**Mr Gauke:** In 2009-10, HM Revenue and Customs aimed to pay 60% of tax credits new claims in 15 days. The provisional outturn for 2009-10 is 58%. The disaggregated information requested is not available.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Leader of the House which Ministers in his Office have been issued with *(a)* a BlackBerry, *(b)* an iPhone, *(c)* another make of mobile telephone and (d) a personal digital assistant supplied by the Cabinet Office. [4113]

**Sir George Young:** One Minister in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons has been issued with a BlackBerry which was previously used by Cabinet Office staff.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Breast Cancer

**Yvonne Fovargue:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many women in *(a)* the Metropolitan borough of Wigan, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England (i) were diagnosed with and (ii) died from breast cancer in each of the last five years. [3139]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many women in (a) the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan, (b) the North West and (c) England (i) were diagnosed with and (ii) died from breast cancer in each of the last five years. [3139]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007, while the latest provisional figures for deaths are for the year 2009. Please note that the number of breast cancer cases may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Table 1 provides the number of (i) newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer in women from 2003 to 2007 and Table 2 provides the number of (ii) deaths from breast cancer in women from 2005 to 2009, for (a) Wigan metropolitan district, (b) North West government office region and (c) England.

*Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], females[2], Wigan metropolitan district, North West Government office region and England[3], 2003 to 2007[4]*

| *Area* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wigan | 209 | 213 | 210 | 227 | 204 |
| North West | 5,002 | 5,186 | 5,311 | 5,383 | 5,269 |
| England | 37,584 | 37,855 | 38,733 | 38,550 | 38,048 |

[1] Breast cancer is coded as C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[2] Around 99% of breast cancer cases are in women.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2010.

[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

*Table 2: Number of deaths where breast cancer was the underlying cause of death[1], females, Wigan metropolitan district, North West government office region, and England[2] [3], 2005 to 2009[4] [5]*

| *Area* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wigan | 51 | 62 | 49 | 60 | 57 |
| North West | 1,385 | 1,394 | 1,344 | 1,313 | 1,295 |
| England | 10,297 | 10,243 | 9,986 | 10,065 | 9,749 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2010.

[3] Figures do not include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

[5] Figures for deaths registered in 2009 are provisional.

## Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the *(a)* Minister without Portfolio, the right hon. Baroness Warsi and *(b)* the Leader of the House of Lords, the right hon. Lord Strathclyde have been issued with (i) a BlackBerry, (ii) an iPhone, (iii) another make of mobile telephone and (iv) a personal digital assistant supplied by a Government Department. [4112]

**Mr Maude:** No BlackBerrys, iPhones, other mobile phones or personal digital assistants have been issued to the Minister without Portfolio, the right hon. Baroness Warsi and the Leader of the House of Lords, the right hon. Lord Strathclyde in the Cabinet Office.

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which Government *(a)* Whips and *(b)* Assistant Whips in both Houses have been issued with (i) a BlackBerry, (ii) an iPhone, (iii) another make of mobile telephone and (iv) a personal digital assistant. [4183]

**Mr Maude:** No BlackBerrys, iPhones, other mobile phones or personal digital assistants have been issued to any Government Whips or Assistant Whips in the Cabinet Office.

## Electoral Register

**Dr Whitehead:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of *(a)* the number of people registered to vote and *(b)* the number of people aged 18 years and over resident in each constituency in England and Wales. [3148]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of (a) the number of people registered to vote and (b) the number of people aged 18 years and over resident in each constituency in England and Wales (3148).

Table 1 shows the number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections for each parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, as at 1st December 2009. Table 2 shows the mid-year estimate of the population aged 18 and over by parliamentary constituency, in England and Wales for 2007. A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

These are the latest figures that are available. There have been a number of boundary changes to parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales between 2007 and 2009.

**Dr Whitehead:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the number of people aged 18 years and over resident in each constituency in England and Wales who are registered to vote. [3149]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the number of people aged 18 years and over resident in each constituency in England and Wales who are registered to vote (3149).

The table shows the number of people registered to vote aged 18 and over in each parliamentary constituency in England and Wales as at 1 December 2009. Figures provided exclude people who are registered as overseas electors and who are not resident in England and Wales. A Copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

These estimates are the best approximation to the figures you request however, the registered electorate may include some voters who are not currently resident. This is because people who have more than one address may register in more than one place (e.g. students may register at parental and term-time addresses) and electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or died. This can affect the comparability of figures across parliamentary constituencies.

## Non-departmental Public Bodies

**John Mann:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which non-departmental public bodies his Department is assessing on their suitability of purpose and cost-effectiveness. [3435]

**Mr Maude:** All of them.

## HEALTH

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mr Khalid Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 262W, on departmental mobile telephones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier was in respect of the BlackBerry devices issued to each Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. [4062]

**Anne Milton:** Each Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State has been issued with a BlackBerry device at an individual cost of £196.50 plus VAT, on the Vodafone "Teamwork+BlackBerry" tariff, supplied by the Department's Information Services Division.

### Dietary Supplements: EU Law

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who has attended each meeting at EU level to discuss European legislation on food supplements in the last 24 months; what reports he has received on each such meeting; what decisions he has taken as a result of those reports; and if he will make a statement; [3702]

(2) what criteria he used in deciding which officials in his Department would undertake negotiations in the EU on maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements; what technical expertise is available to those officials; and if he will make a statement; [3703]

(3) what information he has on the likely timetable for the publication by the European Commission of proposals for maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive; and what assessment he has made of the likely economic effects of implementation of those levels on businesses in *(a)* Harlow, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* the UK. [3704]

**Anne Milton:** Food Standards Agency (FSA) officials have attended each meeting at the EU level to discuss European legislation on food supplements in the last 24 months. There have been no European Union level meetings on this subject since this Government was formed and therefore no reports have been received.

A team of FSA officials are responsible for this issue. While officials at grade 7 and above in seniority will normally represent the United Kingdom in EU level discussions, the FSA deploys staff resources flexibly, using to the best effect the available skills and expertise, to ensure that the UK is best able to deliver its objectives. The FSA team includes officials with relevant scientific qualifications and expertise. Additional technical expertise is available from independent scientific experts and food supplement industry experts as necessary.

The European Commission has indicated that discussions will continue at working group level later in 2010. A date has not been set for publication by the European Commission of proposals for maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of article 5 of the food supplements directive. An impact assessment is being prepared according to cabinet office guidelines, which will include economic impact to UK businesses; the assessment will be completed when the maximum European Commission's proposal on permitted levels for vitamins and minerals is published. The impact assessment is made at the UK level and does not consider individual counties or towns separately. The impact assessment will form part of a public consultation on the proposals.

### Drugs and Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve health outcomes for those treated for alcohol or drug abuse. [3326]

**Anne Milton:** Alcohol and drugs are major public health issues. In England, primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for arranging to meet the local needs of those with alcohol and/or drug related problems and ensuring that services commissioned are of the required quality.

We are determined to help the national health service ensure effective commissioning of services, focusing on good outcomes from treatment, including that for alcohol and drug problems. We will set out our plans in more detail in the coming months.

The Department's Alcohol Improvement Programme supports the NHS to help them commission improvements in alcohol prevention and treatment, through:

guidance on effective commissioning and treatment;

data from the National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System and local alcohol profiles for England to help PCTs understand local need in relation to alcohol harm; and

a National Support Team for Alcohol, providing support in areas with the highest rates of alcohol-related hospital admissions.

Together the Department, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) have produced a comprehensive suite of evidence-based guidance on drug treatment for those commissioning and delivering services.

To improve the availability, capacity and effectiveness of treatment for drug misuse in England, the NTA provides drug service providers with practical support and encouragement, while data from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System allows PCTs to more accurately plan and target resources for their drug misuse services.

We will be conducting a full review of sentencing policy to ensure that it is effective and that sentencing for drug use helps offenders to come off drugs. We will also explore alternative forms of secure, treatment-based accommodation for drugs offenders.

### Hospitals

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the optimum population size which general hospitals should serve. [4105]

**Anne Milton:** Each community in England is unique in terms of its population, their distribution and health needs. Therefore, national health service organisations design their facilities to best respond to these local health needs to deliver high quality care. Centrally linking population size and hospital types would therefore fail to provide the service the public deserve.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on *(a)* specialist centres of excellence and *(b)* general district hospitals. [4106]

**Mr Lansley:** We believe that patients should have access to the right treatment, at the right place and at the right time. We require that quality health care services reflect considerations of safety, quality standards and access. We believe services should be locally accessible wherever possible; and centralised where necessary. Judgments about this balance must, as I made clear in my statement of 21 May, take full account of clinical evidence, public engagement, general practitioner commissioning and referral intentions, and the current and prospective pattern of patient choice.

### Hospitals: Buildings

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the clinical outcomes for patients in hospital buildings that are older than 10 years. [4103]

**Anne Milton:** The national health service delivers patient services in buildings from a wide range of ages. The NHS is expected to ensure that its buildings are functionally suitable to deliver safe and high quality care, regardless of when they were built.

### North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the estimated *(a)* reactive and *(b)* planned repairs and maintenance cost for the (i) University Hospital of Hartlepool and (ii) University Hospital of North Tees in each of the next three years. [4104]

**Mr Lansley:** The information is not available in the format requested. The information that is available is shown in the following table.

*Backlog maintenance data for the university hospital of Hartlepool and the university hospital of North Tees for 2008-09*

| | *University hospital of Hartlepool* | *University hospital of North Tees* |
|---|---|---|
| High risk (£000) | 250 | 250 |
| Significant risk (£000) | 430 | 500 |
| Medium risk (£000) | 3,000 | 5,000 |
| Low risk (£000) | 4,000 | 5,770 |
| Total (£000) | 7,680 | 11,520 |
| Total backlog maintenance/occupied floor area (£) | 178.99/m² | 157.04/m² |

*Notes:*

1. National health service organisations are locally responsible for the provision and maintenance of their facilities. This includes planning and investment to reduce backlog maintenance. This data has not been amended centrally and its accuracy is the responsibility of the contributing NHS organisations.
2. Backlog maintenance is the capital investment required to bring a trust's estate up to an appropriate standard. The latest available data is for 2008-09, which has been provided in the table.
3. High risk backlog maintenance is defined as urgent priority work needed to prevent catastrophic failure, major disruption to clinical services or deficiencies resulting in serious injury or prosecution.
4. Significant risk backlog maintenance is defined as work that requires short-term expenditure but can be effectively managed to avoid risk to health care services or concern to enforcement bodies.
5. Moderate risk backlog maintenance is defined as work that requires close control and monitoring but can be managed in the medium term.
6. Low risk backlog maintenance is defined as work that can be addressed through agreed maintenance programmes or through strategic plans.

*Source:*

Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC) 2008-09

### Patients: Per Capita Costs

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of admission to hospital per patient was at *(a)* the University Hospital of Hartlepool, *(b)* the University Hospital of North Tees, *(c)* James Cook University Hospital and *(d)* all hospitals in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [4102]

**Mr Lansley:** The information is not collected centrally. However, it is possible to estimate the average cost of each episode of admitted patient care under a consultant using information collected in national health service reference costs, most recently covering the financial year 2008-09. Figures are provided in the table for these NHS organisations and for England. Data for all NHS organisations in England are available from the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_111591.

*Table: Average cost of admitted patient care under the care of a consultant in 2008-09*

| | *Average unit cost per finished consultant episode (FCE)* |
|---|---|
| North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust | £1,200 |
| South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | £1,400 |
| Average for all hospitals in England | £1,300 |

*Notes:*

1. The figures in the table are derived from organisation level reference costs and from schedule 1 (NHS trusts) of the 2008-09 national schedules of reference costs.
2. The figures were calculated by summing the product of activity (FCEs and excess bed days) and average unit costs, and dividing by total FCEs, for all health care resource groups in the day case, elective inpatient and non-elective inpatient schedules.
3. FCEs are the unity of activity for reference costs and cover a patient's period in the care of a consultant in hospital. There may be more than one FCE during a patient's spell of care between admission and discharge.
4. The figures are rounded to the nearest £100.
5. University Hospital of Hartlepool and University Hospital of North Tees are part of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.
6. James Cook University Hospital is part of South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Civil Partnerships

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what discussions she has had with leaders of religious groups on the Government's policy on allowing same-sex couples to register relationships in a religious setting. [4163]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government published "Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality" on 16 June 2010. This document sets out a programme of work to tackle discrimination and ensure equal opportunities for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people.

It confirms our support for civil partnerships and sets out our commitment to

> "talk to those with a key interest in this issue about what the next stage should be for civil partnerships, including how some religious organisations can allow same-sex couples the opportunity to register their relations in a religious setting is they wish to do so".

We will be talking with leaders of religious groups as part of this process.

## EDUCATION

### Academies: GCSE

**Tristram Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of year 11 pupils at *(a)* academy schools and *(b)* each academy school obtained at least five GCSEs at A*-C grade, excluding equivalents in 2008-09 in (i) any subject and (ii) including English and mathematics. [2786]

**Mr Gibb:** The information requested is presented in the following table:

*GCSE results of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in academies in 2009*

| | *Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C* | *Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C including English and Maths* |
|---|---|---|
| St Pauls Academy | 66 | 56 |
| Mossbourne Community Academy | 83 | 82 |
| Burlington Danes Academy | 52 | 49 |
| City of London Academy - Islington | 42 | 34 |
| Lambeth Academy | 42 | 35 |
| Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College | 90 | 86 |
| Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy | 28 | 25 |
| St Matthew Academy | 21 | 19 |
| City of London Academy (Southwark) | 47 | 38 |
| Harris Academy at Peckham | 27 | 24 |
| Harris Academy Bermondsey | 47 | 44 |
| Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich | 40 | 35 |
| Walworth Academy | 30 | 30 |
| St Michael and All Angels C of E Academy | 23 | 22 |
| Bacon's College | 70 | 53 |
| Globe Academy | 34 | 31 |
| Ashcroft Technology Academy | 66 | 63 |
| Paddington Academy | 39 | 32 |
| Westminster Academy | 31 | 29 |
| Pimlico Academy | 51 | 40 |
| London Academy | 42 | 33 |
| The Business Academy Bexley | 32 | 30 |
| Harris Academy Falconwood | 30 | 28 |
| Capital City Academy | 34 | 29 |
| Harris Academy South Norwood | 23 | 23 |
| Harris City Academy Crystal Palace | 90 | 81 |
| Oasis Academy—Coulsdon | 49 | 42 |
| West London Academy | 33 | 28 |
| Greig City Academy | 39 | 36 |
| Stockley Academy | 19 | 18 |
| The Harefield Academy | 38 | 35 |
| Harris Academy Merton | 58 | 47 |
| St Marks Church of England Academy | 34 | 27 |
| Walthamstow Academy | 33 | 27 |
| Grace Academy Coventry | 32 | 27 |
| Shireland Collegiate Academy | 27 | 26 |
| George Salter Collegiate Academy | 25 | 24 |
| Q3 Academy | 50 | 43 |
| RSA Academy | 17 | 16 |
| Grace Academy Solihull | 31 | 19 |
| CTC Kingshurst Academy | 43 | 41 |
| Walsall Academy | 61 | 56 |
| Sheffield Community Academy | 22 | 21 |
| The Academy of St Francis of Assisi | 22 | 17 |
| North Liverpool Academy | 30 | 26 |
| The Belvedere Academy | 99 | 96 |
| Essa Academy | 39 | 35 |
| Manchester Academy | 33 | 32 |
| William Hulme's Grammar School | 88 | 85 |
| St Anne's Academy | 31 | 30 |
| Salford City Academy | 38 | 32 |
| Oasis Academy MediaCityUK | 37 | 31 |
| Stockport Academy | 25 | 20 |
| New Charter Academy | 32 | 28 |
| The Barnsley Academy | 7 | 7 |
| Trinity Academy | 50 | 46 |
| Sheffield Park Academy | 2 | 2 |
| Sheffield Springs Academy | 13 | 13 |
| Dixons City Academy | 87 | 86 |
| Bradford Academy | 22 | 19 |
| David Young Community Academy | 24 | 22 |
| Excelsior Academy | 12 | 10 |
| Academy 360 | 16 | 15 |
| The City Academy Bristol | 37 | 32 |
| Bristol Brunel Academy | 26 | 22 |
| Bristol Cathedral Choir School | 83 | 78 |
| Colston's Girls' School | 100 | 85 |
| Merchants' Academy | 15 | 13 |
| Oasis Academy Bristol | 25 | 18 |
| Oasis Academy Brightstowe | 26 | 20 |
| John Cabot Academy | 71 | 62 |
| Unity City Academy | 14 | 14 |
| The King's Academy | 44 | 37 |
| Macmillan Academy | 74 | 65 |
| Archbishop Sentamu Academy | 14 | 14 |
| Oasis Academy Immingham | 15 | 14 |
| Oasis Academy Wintringham | 21 | 21 |
| Havelock Academy | 27 | 26 |
| St Lawrence Academy | 34 | 33 |
| Barnfield West Academy Luton | 29 | 29 |
| Barnfield South Academy Luton | 34 | 31 |
| Landau Forte College | 66 | 52 |

*GCSE results of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in academies in 2009*

| | *Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C* | *Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C including English and Maths* |
|---|---|---|
| St Aidans Church of England Academy | 40 | 37 |
| Oasis Academy Lord's Hill | 21 | 19 |
| Oasis Academy Mayfield | 36 | 32 |
| Swindon Academy | 32 | 26 |
| John Madejski Academy | 6 | 6 |
| The Langley Academy | 30 | 28 |
| Thomas Deacon Academy | 40 | 34 |
| New Rickstones Academy | 36 | 32 |
| Greensward Academy | 49 | 45 |
| Maltings Academy | 41 | 35 |
| The Gateway Academy | 28 | 25 |
| Hereford Academy | 29 | 23 |
| Steiner Academy Hereford | 0 | 0 |
| The Marlowe Academy | 5 | 5 |
| Folkestone Academy | 23 | 22 |
| Marsh Academy | 22 | 22 |
| The Leigh Technology Academy | 26 | 26 |
| Spires Academy | 21 | 21 |
| New Line Learning Academy | 4 | 4 |
| Cornwallis Academy | 38 | 37 |
| Longfield Academy | 34 | 29 |
| Accrington Academy | 34 | 28 |
| Darwen Aldridge Community Academy | 27 | 22 |
| Samworth Church Academy | 26 | 21 |
| Djanogly City Academy Nottingham | 22 | 22 |
| Madeley Academy | 45 | 43 |
| Abraham Darby | 33 | 30 |
| Richard Rose Morton Academy | 26 | 24 |
| Richard Rose Central Academy | 30 | 25 |
| West Lakes Academy | 32 | 25 |
| Priory Witham Academy | 29 | 26 |
| Priory City of Lincoln Academy | 26 | 23 |
| Priory Academy LSST | 96 | 96 |
| Trent Valley Academy | 25 | 22 |
| The Open Academy | 28 | 27 |
| Northampton Academy | 37 | 35 |
| Corby Business Academy | 17 | 16 |
| Brooke Weston Academy | 90 | 80 |
| North Oxfordshire Academy | 20 | 19 |
| Oxford Academy | 24 | 18 |
| Midhurst Rother College | 51 | 42 |
| All Academy schools | 37 | 33 |

*Note*:
Only A*-C passes in full, short course and double award GCSEs are included.

## Building Schools for the Future Programme

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects his review of the Building Schools for the Future programme to conclude; and if he will make a statement. [1166]

**David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether the Wrockwardine Wood Secondary School in Telford is included in the review of the Building Schools for the Future programme; [2506]

(2) whether the Phoenix Secondary School in Telford is included in the review of the Building Schools for the Future programme; [2507]

(3) whether the Lord Silkin Secondary School in Telford is included in the review of the Building Schools for the Future programme; [2508]

(4) whether the Sutherland Secondary School in Telford is included in the review of the Building Schools for the Future programme; [2509]

(5) when the review of the Building Schools for the Future programme will be concluded. [2510]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department is currently reviewing the Building Schools for the Future programme to ensure that we can build schools more effectively and more cost-efficiently in the future.

## Children: Epilepsy

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of children with epilepsy in mainstream schools. [2802]

**Sarah Teather:** The information on the number of pupils with epilepsy is not collected by the Department.

The information available on type of special educational need is published in the Statistical First Release "Schools, Pupils and their characteristics, January 2010 (Provisional)" and can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

## Children: Protection

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were on the Child Protection Register in each local authority in England in each year since 2006. [3567]

**Tim Loughton:** The information requested is as follows:

*Table 9D: Children[1] who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan—Years ending 31 March 2006-09 Coverage: England*

| | | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
| England | 26,400 | 27,900 | 29,200 | 34,100 |
| *North East* | 1,615 | 1,785 | 1,980 | 2,265 |
| Darlington | 65 | 50 | 50 | 65 |
| Durham | 180 | 225 | 215 | 290 |
| Gateshead | 145 | 145 | 155 | 135 |
| Hartlepool | 75 | 90 | 55 | 80 |
| Middlesbrough | 140 | 125 | 210 | 260 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 230 | 350 | 320 | 315 |
| North Tyneside | 95 | 115 | 105 | 125 |
| Northumberland | 160 | 175 | 255 | 255 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 70 | 60 | 120 | 160 |

*Table 9D: Children[1] who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan—Years ending 31 March 2006-09 Coverage: England*

*Number*

| *Local authority* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Tyneside | 85 | 110 | 135 | 110 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 105 | 130 | 160 | 210 |
| Sunderland | 270 | 210 | 200 | 265 |
| | | | | |
| *North West* | 3,375 | 3,565 | 3,980 | 5,235 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 70 | 65 | 45 | 135 |
| Blackpool | 145 | 110 | 165 | 155 |
| Bolton | 130 | 145 | 190 | 250 |
| Bury | 110 | 100 | 145 | 145 |
| Cheshire | 175 | 155 | 175 | 260 |
| Cumbria | 120 | 160 | 225 | 270 |
| Halton | 85 | 80 | 65 | 75 |
| Knowsley | 110 | 150 | 110 | 135 |
| Lancashire | 515 | 565 | 510 | 660 |
| Liverpool | 225 | 320 | 355 | 500 |
| Manchester | 270 | 300 | 515 | 540 |
| Oldham | 90 | 130 | 170 | 235 |
| Rochdale | 70 | 105 | 75 | 140 |
| Salford | 130 | 75 | 135 | 225 |
| Sefton | 145 | 195 | 235 | 310 |
| St Helens | 150 | 105 | 90 | 120 |
| Stockport | 130 | 130 | 140 | 170 |
| Tameside | 95 | 85 | 105 | 165 |
| Trafford | 160 | 155 | 200 | 215 |
| Warrington | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 |
| Wigan | 90 | 95 | 110 | 215 |
| Wirral | 250 | 245 | 115 | 225 |
| | | | | |
| *Yorks and the Humber* | 2,830 | 2,730 | 2,835 | 3,240 |
| Barnsley | 195 | 140 | 150 | 170 |
| Bradford | 275 | 205 | 255 | 305 |
| Calderdale | 90 | 115 | 135 | 160 |
| Doncaster | 250 | 235 | 325 | 310 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 135 | 115 | 110 | 110 |
| Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 260 | 155 | 125 | 145 |
| Kirklees | 205 | 200 | 215 | 230 |
| Leeds | 305 | 400 | 405 | 395 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 70 | 80 | 90 | 70 |
| North Lincolnshire | 85 | 80 | 90 | 85 |
| North Yorkshire | 315 | 240 | 130 | 230 |
| Rotherham | 105 | 145 | 235 | 285 |
| Sheffield | 350 | 405 | 285 | 350 |
| Wakefield | 145 | 160 | 210 | 305 |
| York | 45 | 60 | 80 | 100 |
| | | | | |
| *East Midlands* | 2,275 | 2,525 | 2,410 | 2,525 |
| Derby | 260 | 300 | 170 | 135 |
| Derbyshire | 290 | 320 | 375 | 490 |
| Leicester | 290 | 395 | 350 | 345 |
| Leicestershire | 160 | 150 | 245 | 255 |
| Lincolnshire | 365 | 345 | 260 | 205 |
| Northamptonshire | 185 | 185 | 155 | 225 |
| Nottingham | 270 | 330 | 430 | 410 |
| Nottinghamshire | 450 | 485 | 420 | 445 |
| Rutland | 10 | 15 | [2]— | 10 |
| | | | | |
| *West midlands* | 3,305 | 3,480 | 3,475 | 4,245 |
| Birmingham | 1,055 | 1,255 | 1,020 | 1,375 |
| Coventry | 210 | 185 | 180 | 300 |
| Dudley | 115 | 135 | 135 | 170 |
| Herefordshire | 65 | 55 | 70 | 105 |
| Sandwell | 175 | 120 | 190 | 210 |
| Shropshire | 160 | 160 | 135 | 175 |
| Solihull | 130 | 80 | 55 | 90 |
| Staffordshire | 385 | 340 | 385 | 440 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 115 | 150 | 240 | 185 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 105 | 135 | 160 | 155 |
| Walsall | 120 | 165 | 175 | 195 |
| Warwickshire | 295 | 300 | 335 | 355 |
| Wolverhampton | 190 | 125 | 120 | 160 |
| Worcestershire | 195 | 285 | 270 | 330 |
| | | | | |
| *East of England* | 2,600 | 2,620 | 2,745 | 3,025 |
| Bedfordshire | 140 | 110 | 140 | 200 |
| Cambridgeshire | 250 | 290 | 360 | 360 |
| Essex | 500 | 625 | 545 | 645 |
| Hertfordshire | 420 | 385 | 445 | 585 |
| Luton | 140 | 120 | 100 | 145 |
| Norfolk | 410 | 320 | 295 | 310 |
| Peterborough | 175 | 175 | 85 | 100 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 100 | 120 | 165 | 155 |
| Suffolk | 405 | 410 | 465 | 390 |
| Thurrock | 60 | 70 | 150 | 130 |
| | | | | |
| London | 4,745 | 4,955 | 5,210 | 5,795 |
| *Inner London* | | | | |
| Camden | 215 | 195 | 195 | 270 |
| City of London | 0 | [2]— | [2]— | [2]— |
| Hackney | 165 | 185 | 220 | 220 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 75 | 140 | 150 | 175 |
| Haringey | 200 | 155 | 230 | 180 |
| Islington | 135 | 110 | 110 | 140 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 60 | 60 | 55 | 75 |
| Lambeth | 215 | 240 | 255 | 210 |
| Lewisham | 225 | 195 | 175 | 200 |
| Newham | 430 | 475 | 385 | 300 |
| Southwark | 240 | 230 | 260 | 315 |
| Tower Hamlets | 125 | 190 | 235 | 270 |
| Wandsworth | 125 | 135 | 175 | 180 |
| Westminster | 110 | 115 | 85 | 145 |

*Table 9D: Children[1] who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan—Years ending 31 March 2006-09 Coverage: England*

*Number*

| *Local authority* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *2009* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Outer London* | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 130 | 145 | 165 | 165 |
| Barnet | 115 | 130 | 155 | 150 |
| Bexley | 80 | 60 | 60 | 85 |
| Brent | 130 | 125 | 170 | 175 |
| Bromley | 155 | 140 | 140 | 165 |
| Croydon | 215 | 235 | 250 | 270 |
| Ealing | 240 | 320 | 365 | 330 |
| Enfield | 180 | 155 | 130 | 205 |
| Greenwich | 165 | 175 | 190 | 275 |
| Harrow | 120 | 135 | 110 | 160 |
| Havering | 135 | 75 | 70 | 95 |
| Hillingdon | 85 | 125 | 150 | 175 |
| Hounslow | 160 | 180 | 140 | 185 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 40 | 50 | 60 | 80 |
| Merton | 85 | 120 | 130 | 135 |
| Redbridge | 100 | 115 | 135 | 150 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 50 | 50 | 35 | 35 |
| Sutton | 65 | 85 | 105 | 150 |
| Waltham Forest | 175 | 105 | 95 | 135 |

[1] Includes unborn children.

[2] A small number which has been suppressed to preserve confidentiality

*Source:*

CPR3

## Children's Centres: Doncaster

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children's centres there were in *(a)* Don Valley and *(b)* the Doncaster borough council area in each year since (i) 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available. [2746]

**Sarah Teather:** The following table gives details of how many designated (open) Sure Start Children's Centres there were in *(a)* Don Valley constituency and *(b)* the Doncaster borough council area in each year since 2003. There were no children's centres designated prior to 2003; the latest data on the total number of children's centres designated in Doncaster were available at 30 April 2010—shown as the 2010 figures in the table.

| | *Total children's centres in Don Valley constituency* | *Total children's centres in Doncaster borough council* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 1 | 1 |
| 2004 | 1 | 1 |
| 2005 | 3 | 9 |
| 2006 | 4 | 14 |
| 2007 | 4 | 14 |
| 2008 | 7 | 22 |
| 2009 | [1]6 | [1]21 |
| 2010 | 6 | 21 |

[1] In 2009 Conisbrough children's centre merged with Denaby Main children's centre, becoming a satellite to Denaby Main children's centre rather than a centre in its own right. This resulted in a reduction to the overall total of children's centres in Doncaster.

## Education Maintenance Allowance

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in *(a)* Dudley, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England applied for educational maintenance allowance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [1500]

**Mr Gibb:** This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in *Hansard* and the Library.

## Education Maintenance Allowance: Warrington

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in Warrington North constituency are in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [3281]

**Mr Gibb:** This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

## Education Maintenance Allowance: Wigan

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people resident in Wigan constituency receive education maintenance allowance. [1735]

**Mr Gibb:** This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in *Hansard* and the Libraries.

## Free School Meals

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to announce the results of the universal free school meals pilot schemes; and if he will make a statement. [1531]

**Mr Gibb:** The pilots in Newham, Durham and Wolverhampton started in the autumn term 2009 and will run until July 2011. We have commissioned NatCen (National Centre for Social Research) to undertake the evaluation of the pilots. We will closely evaluate them for evidence on how each option affects take up of school lunches; impacts on children's outcomes including diet at school and at home, health, behaviour and attainment; and value for money. We expect the full evaluation results to be available early in 2012. Some results, such as the effect on school lunch take-up, will be available earlier.

As the Secretary of State made clear in his letter of 7 June to the right hon. Member for Morley and Outwood (Ed Balls) which has been placed in the Library, the Government will not be funding the additional free school meals pilots in Islington, Bradford, Nottingham, Cumbria and Medway that were due to start in September 2010.

### Free Schools

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding he plans to allocate to the implementation of free school polices in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2013-14. [1216]

**Mr Gibb:** Full plans for all education funding depend on the spending review which has yet to be undertaken. Those plans will include provision for the funding of free schools. Details will be published as part of the spending settlement latter this year.

### GCSE: West Midlands

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils obtained five A* to C grades at GCSE in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry in each year since 1997. [3853]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 23 June 2010]*: The information required is shown in the following table.

*Number of pupils obtained five A* to C grades at GCSE in the West Midlands and Coventry*

| | West Midlands | | Coventry | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| 1997 | 24,733 | 40.2 | 1,262 | 36.9 |
| 1998 | 25,138 | 41.3 | 1,286 | 37.1 |
| 1999 | 26,972 | 43.5 | 1,318 | 39.1 |
| 2000 | 27,441 | 44.8 | 1,412 | 40.8 |
| 2001 | 29,262 | 45.8 | 1,523 | 42.6 |
| 2002 | 30,742 | 48.1 | 1,561 | 43.2 |
| 2003 | 32,797 | 50.2 | 1,668 | 45.8 |
| 2004 | 33,967 | 50.9 | 1,666 | 45.5 |
| 2005 | 36,001 | 54.3 | 1,720 | 46.4 |
| 2006 | 38,232 | 56.4 | 1,796 | 47.9 |
| 2007 | 40,734 | 59.3 | 1,998 | 52.6 |
| 2008 | 43,263 | 64.1 | 2,210 | 60.7 |
| 2009 | 45,455 | 70.1 | 2,474 | 70.0 |

*Notes:*

1. Data for the period 1997 to 2004 relates to 15-year-olds.
2. Data for the period 2005 to 2009 relates to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

*Source:*

Achievement and Attainment Tables.

### National Curriculum Tests

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when the timetable for Key Stage 2 standard assessment tests for academic year 2010-11 will be published; and on what dates he expects those tests to take place. [2614]

**Mr Gibb:** We are currently considering the arrangements for the Key Stage 2 tests in 2011 and will confirm the details shortly.

### Schools: Discipline

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the implications for young carers of a policy in schools of no-notice detentions; [2436]

(2) what assessment was made of the implications for child protection of allowing head teachers to use no-notice detentions. [2439]

**Mr Gibb:** The Government trust head teachers to make reasonable arrangements for detentions, taking into account any implications for child protection and for young carers.

### Schools: Finance

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of paying to each eligible *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school under his proposals the payment presently awarded to each school which achieves academy school status. [1398]

**Mr Gibb:** Outstanding schools making a successful application for conversion to academy status will be entitled to a grant of around £25,000 as a contribution to implementation and development costs. The total cost will depend on the number of successful applications.

### Schools: Standards

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that any reduction in the level of regulation affecting schools does not put children at risk. [2438]

**Mr Gibb:** I can confirm that the Government's programme of providing greater freedom for schools will not put pupils at risk. Academies already benefit from greater freedoms to help them innovate and raise standards. These include freedom from local authority control; the ability to set their own pay and conditions for staff; freedom from following the national curriculum; and the ability to change the length of terms and school days. Staff in all schools, including academies, have a general duty of care for those in their charge.

### Specialised Diplomas

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in *(a)* Wigan constituency, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England have enrolled on a 14 to 19 diploma course in each subject in each year since their introduction. [1739]

**Mr Gibb:** The 14 to 19 Diploma was introduced in the academic year 2008/09. Information on the number of students participating in Diploma learning in 2008/09 was published via the DFE website on 11 November 2009 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000888/index.shtml

Final figures for 2009/10 are likely to be available from the end of November 2010; however, indicative figures were released on the DFE website on 18 December 2009 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/index.cfm?go=site.home&sid=57&pid=500&lid=593&l4id=287&ptype=Single&ctype=Text

The number of students who participated in a course of study towards a Diploma for all or part of the academic year 2008/09 in *(a)* the Wigan constituency, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England up to and including 31 August 2009 by subject, as identified by the number of Diploma students registered on the QCDA Diploma Aggregation Service (DAS) data is:

| *2008/09* | *Construction and the Built Environment* | *Creative and Media* | *Engineering* | *Information Technology* | *Society, Health and Development* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wigan | | | Nil | | | |
| North West | 225 | 524 | 423 | 177 | 303 | 1,652 |
| England | 1,529 | 3,522 | 2,629 | 1,920 | 1,726 | 11,326 |

*Source:*
Full year 2008/09 DAS participation data matched to the DFE National Pupil Database

The number of students who were on a course of study towards a Diploma as of September 2009 in *(a)* the Wigan constituency, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England by subject, as indicated by funding returns from local authorities is:

| *September 2009* | *Construction and the Built Environment* | *Creative and Media* | *Engineering* | *Information Technology* | *Society, Health and Development* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wigan | 0 | 39 | 0 | 26 | 0 |
| North West | 432 | 1373 | 1030 | 547 | 957 |
| England | 3,291 | 9,850 | 6,343 | 5,189 | 5,196 |

| *September 2009* | *Business Administration and Finance* | *Environment and Land Based Studies* | *Hair and Beauty Studies* | *Hospitality* | *Manufacturing and Product Design* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wigan | 0 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 0 |
| North West | 312 | 114 | 279 | 104 | 12 |
| England | 2,440 | 643 | 2,562 | 783 | 144 |

*Source:*
Local authority funding returns for the Diploma Formula Grant submitted to the DFE in November 2009

## UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department plans to take to implement its responsibilities in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; if he will withdraw the reservation and declaration made by his Department to the Convention; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of disabled children educated a long distance away from their homes. [1602]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 15 June 2010]:* The UK Government have ratified the convention and we will meet our commitments under it. The previous Government took a reservation and interpretive declaration to article 24, on education, and we currently have no plans to change this.

Section 9 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 inserted section 22G into the Children Act 1989 to require local authorities to take steps that secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation, within the authority's area, which meets the needs of children that the local authority are looking after, and whose circumstances are such that it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation that is in the authority's area. This will require local authorities to plan strategically to meet the needs of those children. The duty is planned to come into force in April 2011. Statutory guidance was published in March 2010 and can be found at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/childrenincare/careplanning/careplanning/

## Youth Opportunities and Youth Capital Funds

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his plans are for the future of the *(a)* Youth Opportunity Fund and *(b)* Youth Capital Fund. [1976]

**Tim Loughton:** The Department for Education has not yet made a decision on the future of the Youth Opportunity Fund or Youth Capital Fund. The Government are committed to a full comprehensive spending review in the autumn and Ministers will shortly be considering their spending priorities, which will take into account all areas of spending including that for youth activities and facilities.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Aung San Suu Kyi

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to seek to secure the release of Aung San Suu Kyi since his appointment. [3870]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** I raised Burma with ASEAN Ministers at the EU-ASEAN Ministerial on 26 May 2010 at which the Burmese Foreign Minister was present. I made clear that without the release and participation of all political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's elections will not be free and fair. The subsequent summit statement reflected the EU's concern.

To mark Aung San Suu Kyi's 65th birthday, my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary and I called on the military regime to end her detention. Our ambassador in Rangoon repeatedly raises the need for the release of prisoners of conscience, including Aung San Suu Kyi, with Ministers in the Burmese military Government.

We will continue to raise the plight of Burma's political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi through the EU, with Burma's neighbours, and we will highlight the issue in the UN Security Council and UN's human rights bodies. We endorse the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's recent observation that the ongoing detention of Aung San Suu Kyi is illegal and in violation of international human rights law.

### Burma: Elections

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to seek to increase the level of access for people in Burma to free media and information networks before the forthcoming election in that country. [3896]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The forthcoming elections are set to be held under deeply oppressive conditions. The Burmese regime limits public access to media information. Election literature is censored and public gatherings, political banners and flags are banned. Most people are unable to access the media to voice political views and those who do so risk draconian measures imposed by the military junta including long prison sentences. Under these conditions, Burma's people will not have reasonable access to free and impartial media.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides funding to the BBC World Service to enable it to run a Burmese service, which provides objective coverage of politics in Burma. BBC World Service reports that it reaches 8.5 million listeners every week inside Burma. Although internet use is limited in Burma, the FCO's digital communications work also plays its part in the flow of information to the country. As elections approach in Burma, the FCO will continue to work closely with the BBC World Service and others to increase access to political information.

### Colombia and Peru: EU External Trade

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy that the EU free trade agreement with Colombia and Peru be subject to ratification in each member state. [3491]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We will determine our policy when we have seen the English text of the final agreement.

### Colombia: Political Prisoners

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether British diplomats in Bogota have visited political prisoners in Colombian jails. [3432]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We have pointed out to the Colombian authorities that those charged with crimes should have their legal rights fully respected, including to a fair trial. We have also raised specific cases of concern of people who have been detained for long periods without trial on the charge of rebellion.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 353-4, on departmental official cars, what cars and vehicles have been purchased by the Mission in Italy since 12 May 2010. [3490]

**Mr Bellingham:** No cars or vehicles have been purchased by the Mission in Italy since 12 May 2010.

### Iran: Human Rights

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Government of Iran on their record on the protection of human rights in the country. [3548]

**Mr Bellingham:** We believe that the human rights situation in Iran is deplorable, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office continues to take opportunities to raise human rights with the Government of Iran in both a bilateral context, and with EU partners. In Geneva this month, the Human Rights Council adopted Iran's Universal Periodic Review, at which the UK made a series of statements about our concerns and made recommendations to Iran to improve the human rights situation. The UK also signed up to a cross-regional statement by Norway and signed by 55 other states calling on Iran to improve urgently its human rights record.

### Iraq: Christianity

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received from representatives of the Assyrian community in the UK on the current situation in Iraq. [3309]

**Mr Bellingham:** Foreign and Commonwealth officials in Iraq and London regularly meet representatives of the wider Iraqi Christian community to hear their concerns. On 21 June 2010 our embassy officials in Baghdad met the co-founder of the Assyrian Democratic Movement in the Kurdish region of Iraq.

We urge the Iraqi Government to protect all Iraqi communities, including Christians, and to deal appropriately with those who are found responsible for any acts of violence and intimidation because of political, ethnic or religious affiliation.

### Overseas Students: Scholarships

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people were awarded British Embassy bursaries to study in the UK in each of the last 20 years. [2264]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has provided funds for four award schemes: Chevening scholarships, Chevening fellowships, Marshall scholarships (through the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission) and Commonwealth scholarships (through the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan). Since 2008-09 the FCO is not funding any new Commonwealth awards (but it is paying the continuing costs of existing scholars). The number of new awards given on each scheme in each of the last 20 years is set out in the following table.

| | *Chevening scholarships* | *Chevening fellowships* | *Marshall scholarships* | *Commonwealth scholarships* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1990-91 | 1,489 | n/a | 30 | 70 |
| 1991-92 | 1,097 | n/a | 40 | 74 |
| 1992-93 | 1,145 | n/a | 39 | 91 |
| 1993-94 | 1,362 | n/a | 36 | 39 |
| 1994-95 | 1,486 | n/a | 40 | 59 |
| 1995-96 | 1,894 | n/a | 40 | 96 |
| 1996-97 | 1,918 | n/a | 40 | 22 |
| 1997-98 | 1,906 | n/a | 40 | 79 |
| 1998-99 | 1,607 | n/a | 39 | 74 |
| 1999-2000 | 2,022 | n/a | 40 | 35 |
| 2000-01 | 2,285 | n/a | 38 | 20 |
| 2001-02 | 2,284 | n/a | 40 | 79 |
| 2002-03 | 2,387 | n/a | 40 | 72 |
| 2003-04 | 2,401 | n/a | 40 | 59 |
| 2004-05 | 2,124 | 87 | 44 | 62 |
| 2005-06 | 1,677 | 208 | 43 | 51 |
| 2006-07 | 1,609 | 229 | 43 | 56 |
| 2007-08 | 1,350 | 225 | 44 | 46 |
| 2008-09 | 978 | 213 | 37 | 53 |
| 2009-10 | 910 | 173 | 40 | 0 |

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### General Elections: Alternative Vote

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent representations he has received on his proposal to hold a referendum on the alternative voting system for general elections. [4156]

**Mr Harper:** Representations have been received from those with an interest in the electoral system for general elections, including Members of Parliament and the public. The Government have set out their intention to introduce legislation providing for a national referendum on the alternative vote for future elections to the House of Commons, and will announce further details in due course.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Biofuels

**Charlotte Leslie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will undertake a review of the eligibility of biofuels sourced from palm oil and jatropha oil for renewables obligation certificates to ensure that those biofuels do not receive subsidies under that certification scheme. [3711]

**Charles Hendry:** A review of support levels for renewable electricity generation under the Renewables Obligation is scheduled to start in October 2010, and will include electricity and CHP generation from bioliquids (i.e. biofuels for electricity). I expect to consult publicly on any changes resulting following this review.

The Government are committed to the sustainability of bio-energy feedstocks. I expect to publish next month proposed sustainability criteria for bioliquids, based on the standards set in the Renewable Energy Directive, to be implemented in the Renewables Obligation.

### Carbon Emissions

**Liz Kendall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what estimate his Department has made of the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in the UK resulting from the introduction of a carbon floor price; [3579]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to assess the effects on electricity bills of the introduction of a carbon floor price; [3583]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the energy *(a)* sectors and *(b)* companies which will benefit from the introduction of a carbon floor price. [3607]

**Gregory Barker:** The creation of a floor for the carbon price is an important commitment in the Programme of Government. As announced in the Budget, the Government will publish proposals in the autumn to reform the climate change levy in order to provide more certainty and support to the carbon price. Further detail will be published as part of the consultation process.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many (a) civil servants and (b) special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3206]

**Gregory Barker:** There are no civil servants or special advisers who are entitled to the use of a car with a dedicated driver nor a car from the Government car pool.

Where groups have such accounts, staff are able to order a taxi through a departmental account in accordance with departmental guidelines.

## Departmental Translation Services

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* documents and *(b)* other information for which (i) his Department and (ii) its associated public bodies are responsible are published or provided in the UK in languages other than English; for what reason each such publication is required to be made available in a language or languages other than English; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the translation work so incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [1779]

**Gregory Barker:** The annual Global Threat Reduction Report is translated into Russian each year, at a cost last year of £4,972. The report outlines the progress being made to address the nuclear, biological and chemical legacies in the countries of the Former Soviet Union (FSU).

The following documents were translated into Welsh for DECC in 2009-10, in accordance with the Welsh Language Act 1993:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Nuclear Consultations Annexes: Volumes 2 and 3 | 7,817.12 |
| Non-Technical Summaries for AoS Reports on EN-1 to EN-5 | 6,898.87 |
| Nuclear Consultations Annexes: Volumes 2 and 3 | 5,182.88 |
| EN-1 Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy | 4,820.00 |
| Renewables Consultation | 4,500.00 |
| EN-3 Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Generation | 3,103.87 |
| Household Energy Management | 2,380.38 |
| Gas Supply Infrastructure | 1,168.00 |
| Habitats Regulation Assessment for EN-1 to EN-5 | 1,052.87 |
| Consultation on Financing of Nuclear Decommissioning: Consultation on Fixed Unit Price for Waste Disposal | 990.00 |
| EN-2 Draft National Policy Statement for Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure | 915.37 |
| Electricity Networks | 880.37 |
| Executive Summary: Fixed Unit Price | 842.12 |
| Nuclear Consultation | 730.50 |
| Executive Summary re regulation of gas and electricity networks | 420.88 |
| Miners Newsletter | 290.87 |
| Extending Carbon Emissions Reduction Target | 217.50 |
| Slides for NPS Presentation | 150.00 |
| Notices re Maximum Purchase Limit for Fuel | 94.00 |
| EN-5 Changes to English | 60.00 |
| Amendments to EN-4 | 60.00 |

The Health and Safety Executive paid £2,357.50 on DECC's behalf for the translation of the following document into Welsh, in 2009-10:

Consultation on Restructuring of the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate.

The following documents were translated into Welsh for Ofgem in 2009-10, in accordance with the Welsh Language Act 1993, at a total cost of £1,449:

Executive Summary of the Government Response to the Consultation on the Revised Social and Environmental Guidance to Ofgem; The Revised Social and Environmental Guidance to Ofgem; Call for Evidence on the EU Third Package.

## Electric Cables: Countryside

**Andrew Percy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the visual effect of electricity pylons on the open countryside. [3921]

**Gregory Barker:** For new electricity network lines, it is for the regulatory price control and planning processes to determine the appropriate balance between need, cost and visual impact of electricity transmission towers (pylons) in each location.

## Fuel Poverty

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to reduce fuel poverty; and how much funding will be provided for WarmFront from 2011 onwards. [3733]

**Gregory Barker:** Funding for the Warm Front scheme is just over £1.1 billion for the current three-year spending period to March 2011. This includes a cash provision of £345 million for 2010-11. Funding for future years will be considered as part of the spending review processes.

The Green Deal is a key element of our policy to improve household energy efficiency. We want the Green Deal to be relevant to all households. To this end we will ensure that as policy around the Green Deal develops, the needs of those in fuel poverty continue to be recognised.

## Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria have been set for companies investing in new build nuclear power plants. [4265]

**Charles Hendry:** Government's position on new nuclear power is clear. It is for the private sector energy companies to construct, operate and decommission new nuclear power plants, as long as they are subject to the normal planning process for major projects and that they receive no public subsidy. Operator's plans will also have to satisfy the independent safety regulators. The Government will complete the drafting of the Nuclear National Policy Statement and put it before Parliament which if approved will clear the way for planning applications for new nuclear.

## Nuclear Power: Finance

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on the *(a)* National Nuclear Laboratory, *(b)* National Nuclear Academy, *(c)* Nuclear Institute and *(d)* Office for Civil Nuclear Security in the last 10 years. [2346]

**Charles Hendry:** The information is as follows:

Spend on:

*(a) The National Nuclear Laboratory*

The NNL operates on a commercial basis, managed through a GOCO (Government-owned, contractor-operated) arrangement and does not receive funding from the public purse.

*(b) The Nuclear Academy*

No funding is currently allocated directly from the public purse. However, in 2007-08 the NDA provided £5 million to support the establishment of Energus (formerly referred to as the Nuclear Academy) as a centre of excellence for skills, training and business support.

*(c) The Nuclear Institute*

The Nuclear Institute receives no public income. The NI income is from individual membership, surplus from events and sales of journals and journal advertising and some occasional donations.

*(d) Office for Civil Nuclear Security*

The following payments have been made to the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) in recognition of work carried out on behalf of Government which could not be charged to the civil nuclear industry:

| *April to March each year* | £ |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 280,000 |
| 2008-09 | 196,000 |
| 2007-08 | 174,000 |

Prior to that date, OCNS was part of DTI (as was) and its budget was subsumed within the DTI budget.

### Renewable Energy

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to bring forward proposals for a renewable heat incentive. [4392]

**Charles Hendry:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Michael Fallon) on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 367-68W.

### Transocean

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the next safety and environmental inspection of the 10 Transocean rigs operating in UK waters will be completed; and whether the inspection reports will be published. [3166]

**Charles Hendry** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]*: If Transocean rigs are operating in UK waters they will be subject to safety inspections by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and environmental inspection by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Offshore Environmental Inspectorate.

HSE have informed DECC that their health and safety intervention plan for Transocean proposes at least one annual visit to every Transocean drilling rig working in UK waters. The planned health and safety inspections for 2010-11, subject to schedules and rig moves etc., are:

April: Galaxy II (well test)—inspection completed

May: Arctic III (Rotterdam shipyard)—inspection completed

June: Galaxy II and Sedco 714—inspections completed

August: Arctic III and Prospect

September: John Shaw

October: Paul B Lloyd Jnr

November: Sedco 704

January: J W McLean

February: Sedco 711

March: Galaxy III

The findings of any HSE offshore inspection are discussed with the offshore work force safety representatives at the conclusion of the visit, and they subsequently receive copies of any inspection letter.

DECC have confirmed that they completed environmental inspections of Transocean's Galaxy 4 and Arctic 4 Rigs during October 2009; the Sedco 711 Rig during March 2010 and the Paul Boyd Lloyd Junior during May 2010. DECC's Offshore Inspectorate also plan to visit the above HSE listed Transocean rigs as part of their series of prioritised environmental inspections to fixed installations and drilling rigs, subject to a risk based approach which takes into account operations being conducted. During 2008 DECC's Offshore Inspectorate completed an inspection campaign focused on industry drilling operations, the results of which are published on the DECC website. The inspections ensure that permit holders/operators have been, or are complying with the requirements, restrictions or prohibitions imposed upon them by the relevant statutory provisions.

Following a DECC environmental offshore inspection an inspection letter raising any issues will be sent to the permit holder/operator. These are currently publicly available upon request.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Prime Minister's Oral Statement of 4 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 603-6, on Afghanistan, over what period the £200 million for training and strengthening the police forces and Government institutions is to be spent; from what budget the funding is drawn; and how much will be spent on each priority for the expenditure. [3705]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) will allocate the additional £200 million from its own budget to support the Afghan Government over the next four years (2010-11—2013-14).

DFID is currently reviewing its programme for Afghanistan. The Kabul Conference, scheduled for July, will be a key point for the Afghan Government to set out their development priorities and for the international community to set out their plans to support these.

We will make specific decisions on spending and focus areas in time for this event.

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what proportion of the additional £200 million of aid for Afghanistan announced on 10 June 2010 will be distributed through the United Nations Development Programme; [3730]

(2) what proportion of the additional £200 million of aid for Afghanistan announced on 10 June 2010 will be allocated to *(a)* policing, *(b)* improving training, livelihoods and education, *(c)* Afghan-led stabilisation, including justice and dispute resolution at a sub-national level, *(d)* improving governance and revenue generation and *(e)* supporting Civil Service reform; [3731]

(3) what proportion of the additional £200 million of aid for Afghanistan announced on 10 June 2010 will be distributed *(a)* through the Government of Afghanistan, *(b)* through civil society organisations, *(c)* through multilateral organisations and *(d)* directly by the Government; [3732]

(4) whether the £200 million allocation of aid for Afghanistan he announced on 10 June 2010 meets the definition of overseas development assistance used by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee. [3778]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing its programme for Afghanistan. The Kabul Conference, scheduled for July, will be a key point for the Afghan Government to set out their development priorities and for the international community to set out their plans to support these.

We will make specific decisions on spending and focus areas in time for this event.

All aid spending will continue to meet the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) definition for official development assistance (ODA).

### Departmental mobile phones

**Mr Khalid Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 310W, on departmental mobile telephones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier was in respect of the BlackBerry device issued to (i) the Minister of State and (ii) the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. [4063]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The cost of the BlackBerry handsets issued to the Minister of State and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State were £235 each. The network provider and supplier is Vodafone. The tariff is 'Teamwork and BlackBerry'.

### Developing Countries: Climate Change

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether funding for the Government's contribution to the Fast Start programme announced on 31 May 2010 is to be drawn from existing aid allocations. [3727]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The UK's contribution to Fast Start finance will be drawn from the UK's aid budget. This is a continuation of the previous Government's position, announced in the answer provided on 22 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 242W by the hon. Member for Harrow West (Mr Thomas), on Overseas Aid: Climate Change.

### Overseas Aid

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of establishing his 'Department's proposed aid watchdog; [3725]

(2) when he expects his Department's proposed aid watchdog to be fully operational. [3726]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** We have taken the first steps towards creating a new independent aid watchdog. Details are currently being worked out, and I will keep the House informed of progress.

### South Africa: HIV Infection

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to tackle the HIV epidemic in South Africa. [3545]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is working with a range of South African organisations, including the Government of South Africa's Ministry of Health, to meet the following targets set out in the National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS:

Reduce new HIV infections by 50%;

Reduce mother to child transmission to 5%; and

Expand coverage of treatment, care and support to 80%.

In "The Coalition: our programme for government", the Government highlighted it's commitment to restricting the spread of HIV and AIDS. In the coming months DFID will be reviewing its aid programme to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, including the targets for HIV and AIDS.

### St Helena

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial aid has been allocated to St Helena in 2010-11. [3802]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W, on British Overseas Territories: Overseas Aid.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial aid he plans to provide to St Helena in each of the five financial years from April 2011; and if he will make a statement. [3803]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** In the coming months the Department for International Development (DFID) will be reviewing its aid programme to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and fulfil our obligation to the citizens of UK overseas territories. Allocation of funding to UK overseas territories will be determined as part of the review.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial aid has been given to St Helena in each year since 2008. [3857]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Details of aid provided to St Helena by the Department for International Development (DFID) are published annually in 'Statistics on International Development', which is available in the Library and on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2009/

DFID provided £17,550,000 and £35,738,000 to St Helena and dependencies (including Tristan da Cunha) in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. Figures for 2009-10 will be published later this year.

### St Helena: Airports

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to make an announcement in respect of the start date for building an airport on St Helena; and if he will make a statement. [3801]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** We are currently considering the question of access to St Helena. I will inform the House of any decision that is made.

### Sudan: Overseas Aid

**Mr Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will put in place measures to ensure continuous and regular funding for recovery and stabilisation in southern Sudan. [3468]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The UK remains committed to implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan which is the best foundation for stability and recovery between the North and the South of Sudan. The tri-departmental Stabilisation Unit has an Adviser based in the HMG team in Southern Sudan. The UK also contributes to a number of funds operating in Southern Sudan with a stabilisation focus, including the UK-Netherlands Southern Sudan Recovery Fund which is piloting support to state-level stabilisation plans.

We are currently reviewing all our aid, including aid channelled through multilateral agencies to ensure it is as effective as possible and brings real benefit to the world's poor and conflict-affected populations.

**Mr Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of mechanisms to account for expenditure from the funds administered by the UN in Sudan. [3469]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Mechanisms in place include narrative and financial reports as well as audited statements in line with UN procedures. Department for International Development (DFID) staff also conduct regular monitoring of progress and formal annual reviews in line with our own project management procedures.

We are currently reviewing all our aid, including aid channelled through multilateral agencies to ensure it is as effective as possible and brings real benefit in terms of building peace and delivering assistance to those affected by conflict.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 28 June 2010*

## WALES

### Companies House

**Owen Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the proposed closure of the Companies House office at Nantgarw. [4276]

**Mrs Gillan:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 215W.

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 12W, on departmental mobile telephones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier is in respect of the mobile telephone issued to (i) the Secretary of State and (ii) the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. [4710]

**Mrs Gillan:** The mobile telephones issued by my Department to Ministers are obtained through the central procurement arrangements provided by the Ministry of Justice. Under this arrangement, the telephones are on the standard Government tariff operated by Vodafone, and incur a purchase cost of £50 and a monthly line rental charge of £2 plus VAT. The current telephones are made by Nokia.

### Railways

**Nick Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on how many occasions she has travelled to Wales by train since her appointment. [4125]

**Mrs Gillan:** To date I have travelled by train to Wales on nine separate occasions in the course of my duties. For each journey I travelled standard class, in line with the new policy I implemented upon taking office.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Motions

**Mr Amess:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will place on the parliamentary *(a)* intranet and *(b)* internet site a sound recording of the debate held on the motion of no confidence in the Government on 28 March 1979; and if he will make a statement. [R] [4273]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** Following the answer given on 24 February 2010, the sound recording of the debate held on 28 March 1979 has been requested from the parliamentary broadcasting archives which are held at the British Film Institute. The history section of the website was identified as the best area for the content:

http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/

New content can also be publicised on the parliamentary intranet with a link to the Parliament website page.

The historical debate on the motion of no confidence in 1979 lasted nearly seven hours and the audio material is made up of six CDs. The average length for audio recordings or podcasts on the Parliament website is about 15 minutes. How the material can best be edited and presented in the Living Heritage section is now being considered.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Bio-energy Capital Grant Fund

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of the bio-energy capital grant fund. [4391]

**Charles Hendry:** Before finalising the Department's £85 million contribution to Government savings of £6.2 billion in 2010-11, DECC is reviewing all spending plans, including uncommitted bio-energy capital grant scheme funds, with the aim of minimising any impact on the delivery of our objectives. We appreciate the need to provide clarity and certainty to those who have applied for grants under round 6 of the scheme, and will do so as soon as possible. The future of the scheme will be considered in the wider context of overall support for renewable heat technologies.

### Carbon Emissions: Housing

**Sarah Newton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether companies will have to repay Carbon Emissions Reduction Target funding in order to qualify for the Renewable Heat Incentive; and if he will make a statement. [4451]

**Gregory Barker:** The Government are committed to increasing the amount of renewable heat in the UK; this is a crucial part of ensuring we meet our renewables targets, cutting carbon and ensuring energy security. We are currently looking at the renewable heat incentive (RHI) proposals. Clearly there are benefits to the scheme, but we must also consider the impact of the costs, particularly given the financial constraints we must work within and the potential impact that funding options could have on vulnerable people.

However, I can confirm that renewable heat installations supported now by energy supplier subsidy under CERT would not be precluded from any future support scheme for renewable heat, though will of course have to meet its requirements. As my hon. Friend may know, there has been a recent consultation on extension to CERT from April 2011 until December 2012. Further announcements on the scope of that extension will be made in due course.

### Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what the estimated cost will be to public bodies required to register for the carbon reduction commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme for *(a)* registration and *(b)* the annual cost of purchasing carbon allowances; [4367]

(2) how many public bodies are required to register for the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme. [4369]

**Gregory Barker:** Any public body which in 2008 had at least one half-hourly electricity meter settled on the half hourly market is required to register for the scheme. Of those that register, those that meet the 6,000MWh qualification threshold will be required to participate in the scheme. In addition all UK Government Departments, the Scottish Administration, the Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Departments must all participate in the CRC scheme regardless of electricity usage. The precise number of public bodies which meet these criteria will not be known until the close of the registration period on 30 September. The Environment Agency estimates that 1,100 public bodies will be participants in the scheme. Other registered public sector bodies must make a simple information disclosure at registration at the start of each phase of the scheme.

Participants meeting the qualification threshold must pay a one-off registration fee of £950 and an annual subsistence fee of £1,290. Organisations which make a simple information disclosure are not required to pay these fees.

The annual cost to a participant from allowance purchases will depend on their total emissions, as well as their position in the league table. Their emissions will depend among other things on the organisation's size and measures introduced to improve their energy efficiency. All of the revenues raised from the Government sale of allowances will be returned to participants, so that those whose energy efficiency scores are highest will receive a bonus. Because of these uncertainties, Government have not estimated the cost to the public sector.

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how much the implementation of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme has cost to date; [4365]

(2) how many officials in the Environment Agency are responsible for administering the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [4366]

**Gregory Barker:** The Environment Agency is the UK Administrator for the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC) and the Regulator for England and Wales. In January 2010 there were nine people administering CRC which will rise to 30 by December 2010.

The cost of Environment Agency implementation activities until April 2010 was £6.6 million. This includes developing an IT system and communication activities to those affected by the regulations including provision of guidance and running a helpdesk since April 2009.

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) of 16 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 461W, on departmental mobile phones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier was in respect of the BlackBerry device issued to each Minister in his Department. [4066]

**Charles Hendry** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* The purchase cost of the BlackBerry device for each Minister is £250. The network provider is Vodafone. The type of tariff is Network and BlackBerry and the name of the supplier is Vodafone.

### Environment: Job Creation

**Emily Thornberry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set targets for the creation of jobs in the environmental industries. [4268]

**Gregory Barker:** Getting people back into employment and the transition to a low carbon, environmentally responsible economy are key objectives for the Government. However I have no plans to set a specific target for the creation of jobs in the environmental industries.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he intends to lay before the House the National Planning Policy Statement on the siting of new nuclear power stations. [4591]

**Charles Hendry:** We are still considering responses to the consultation on the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement, but plan to make an announcement as soon as possible.

### Oil Rigs: Transocean

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 32W, on Transocean, who the operator is of each of the 10 Transocean rigs in UK waters which are not idle and stacked. [4341]

**Charles Hendry:** The operators of the 10 Transocean rigs which are currently working in the North sea are tabled as follows:

| *Rig* | *Operator* |
|---|---|
| GSF Galaxy ii | Encore |
| GSF Galaxy iii | Nexen |
| GSF Labrador | Dana |
| J W McLean | Petrocanada |
| Paul B Loyd Jr | BP |
| Sedco 704 | Shell |
| Sedco 711 | Shell |
| Sedco 714 | Total |
| Transocean John Shaw | Enquest |
| Transocean Prospect | Nexen |

### Renewable Energy

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to support renewable energy generation. [3785]

**Charles Hendry:** We are committed to renewable energy as part of our comprehensive programme of measures to fulfil our ambitions for a low-carbon and eco-friendly economy.

To drive up renewable electricity generation, we have committed to a feed in tariff mechanism (FIT), together with the maintenance of banded Renewables Obligations Certificates (ROCs).

We are currently looking at proposals for a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) to incentivise the uptake of renewable heat and will look to make an announcement on this as soon as possible.

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on supporting loan funding for investment in renewable energy industries. [3787]

**Charles Hendry:** We announced in the Budget our commitment to addressing the barriers to investment in the low-carbon economy.

We welcome market-based interventions which support the financing of renewables, such as the European Investment Bank's intermediated lending scheme for onshore wind projects.

We are also currently considering a wide range of options for the scope and structure of a Green Investment Bank and will put forward detailed proposals following the spending review.

**Mrs Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with representatives of the biofuels industry on the designation of biofuels produced from recycled cooking oils and recycled methanol under the Renewables Obligation Scheme. [4259]

**Gregory Barker:** Since 6 May 2010 there have been no ministerial discussions with the bioliquids (biofuels for electricity or heat) industry on the designation of fuels produced from used cooking oil and recycled methanol under the Renewables Obligation 2009. There have been discussions at official level. However, I would be happy to meet my hon. Friend to discuss the issue further.

**Martin Caton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on implementing the Renewable Heat Incentive; and if he will make a statement. [4427]

**Gregory Barker:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Michael Fallon) on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 367-68W.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Attorney-General how many Government *(a)* cars and *(b)* drivers are allocated to Ministers in the Law Officers' Departments. [4548]

**The Attorney-General:** Ministers in the Law Officers' Departments have two cars and drivers allocated to them but notice has been served on one of the cars and drivers, and the contract for this is due to come to an end in September 2010.

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Attorney-General how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in the Law Officers' Departments are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3211]

**The Attorney-General:** The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is the only civil servant in the Law Officers' Departments currently using a car with a dedicated driver and car from the Government car pool. The Crown Prosecution Service has however given notice and the contract with the Government Car Service will be terminated on 24 August 2010.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department (Tsol) has a number of accounts with the Government Car and Despatch Agency. The Government Car and Despatch Agency is mainly used as a secure means of transport when there is a need to transport classified or sensitive documents relating to legal work undertaken by the Department. The service is also used occasionally by the Permanent Secretary (six times in the first six months of 2010) and by other officials when there is no reasonable, cost-effective public transport alternative.

Tsol, the National Fraud Authority, the Serious Fraud Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate do not have a departmental taxi account.

The CPS does not operate a national account with taxi operators. The CPS is however a devolved organisation and it is possible that there are local arrangements in place where accounts have been established with local taxi operators. To identify any such agreements would require local managers to review all paper procurement records and would incur a disproportionate cost.

The Attorney-General's Office operates a departmental taxi account which is available for use by all staff but can be used only if there is a justified business need.

The Law Officers' Departments do not have any special advisers.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Environment Protection

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the new stewardship schemes applied by Natural England. [4155]

**Mr Paice:** The newest strand of Environmental Stewardship is Uplands Entry Level Stewardship. This was launched in February and welcomed by a number of farming groups. Some representations have recently been made about the requirement for tenant farmers with lets of less than five years to have their application countersigned by their landlord. However, this requirement is necessary to meet European Union rules governing land management under agri-environment, and to ensure sufficient time for the accrual of environmental benefits and make the scheme effective. DEFRA has worked closely with industry and environmental groups throughout the scheme development, and guidance has been published jointly with the Tenancy Reform Industry Group to support tenants and landlords considering joining Uplands ELS.

### Biodiversity

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of levels of biodiversity. [4579]

**Richard Benyon:** 'UK Biodiversity Indicators in your pocket' was published on 20 May 2010. Of the 33 measures assessed, 24 (72%) are 'improving' or 'showing little or no overall change' since the baseline year of 2000, compared with 11 (33%) over a longer term assessment of change.

These figures show that some improvements have been made—for example in relation to populations of widespread bats and woodland birds, both of which have declined dramatically in the past. More land is managed in environmental schemes and more people are volunteering, but many pressures on biodiversity remain high and some species, such as farmland birds and sea birds, have continued to decline.

Biodiversity is one of DEFRA's top priorities. We will be taking action through a White Paper on the natural environment and will promote green spaces and wildlife corridors to restore and increase biodiversity.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* front-line and *(b)* other staff were employed by (i) her Department and (ii) each of its agencies in the latest year for which figures are available; and what her most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of employing staff of each type at each of those bodies. [535]

**Richard Benyon:** The Department and its Executive Agencies contain a mix of staff working in a wide range of areas, including policy development, analysis and research, operational services to the public, and support functions. We have not at this stage carried out a detailed analysis of how many posts fall into which category and so information on the breakdown between front-line and other staff is not held by the Department.

The following table shows the total number and cost of staff employed by the Department.

| *Department/Agency* | *Number of staff* | *Cost of staff (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| DEFRA (core department) | 2,516 | 121.7 |
| Animal Health | 1,590 | 56.2 |
| Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science | 561 | 20.2 |
| Food and Environment Research Agency | 852 | 30.4 |
| Marine and Fisheries Agency | 268 | 9.7 |
| Rural Payments Agency | 3,528 | 123.1 |
| Veterinary Laboratories Agency | 1,203 | 41.2 |
| Veterinary Medicines Directorate | 155 | 6.8 |

The numbers of staff shown are full-time equivalents as at 31 March 2010.

The cost of staff includes salaries plus employers' National Insurance and Superannuation contributions, and covers the 2009-10 Financial Year.

The Marine and Fisheries Agency is included in the table as it was not subsumed into the Marine Management Organisation non-departmental public body until 1 April 2010.

### Fisheries: Northern Ireland

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will ensure that representatives of the Northern Ireland Executive will be part of the UK delegation to the Fisheries Council on 29 June 2010; and if she will make a statement. [4501]

**Richard Benyon:** The Northern Ireland Fisheries Minister, Michelle Gildernew, will not be part of the UK team attending the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 29 June. She will, however, be sending officials from the Northern Ireland Executive to accompany me, the UK Fisheries Minister.

### Flood Control

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider the merits of changing her Department's method of flood risk rating from ratio projections to high, medium and low ratings. [4513]

**Richard Benyon:** In the National Flood Risk Assessment, the Environment Agency has used both a ratio and a description (significant, moderate, low) to express the likelihood of a particular flood occurring.

The three categories used to describe the likelihood of flooding are:

Significant (the chance of flooding in any year is greater than 1 in 75);

Moderate (the chance of flooding in any year is one in 75 or less but greater than one in 200); and

Low (the chance of flooding each year is one in 200 or less).

### Food: Imports

**Paul Goggins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what quantity of imported fresh produce was *(a)* examined and *(b)* rejected at (i) Heathrow and (ii) Manchester airports in the last (A) six months, (B) 12 months and (C) two years. [4640]

**Mr Paice:** Fresh fruit and vegetables being imported into England are examined by two main inspectorate bodies, the Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate (HMI) and the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI).

The following tables show the quantity of fresh fruit and vegetables covered by EU marketing standards examined and refused entry[1] by the HMI at Heathrow and Manchester airports in the last six months, 12 months and two years.

Figures for last six months have dropped due to the deregulation/simplification—at both EU and national level—resulting from changes to the EU rules on marketing standards and how they are implemented in the UK.

[1] When fruit and vegetables are refused entry, the trader still has the option to bring the produce inland for corrective action to be taken under HMRC control before final release/entry to the EU.

*Source:*

The Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate

| | *Last six months 1 January to 31 June 2010* | | *Last 12 months 1 July 2009 to 31 June 2010* | | *Last two years 1 July 2008 to 31 June 2010* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of consignments* | *Weight in KG* | *Number of consignments* | *Weight in KG* | *Number of consignments* | *Weight in KG* |
| Heathrow | 18 | 50,438 | 90 | 449,337 | 2,853 | 2,708,068 |
| Manchester | 0 | — | 0 | — | 139 | 29,726 |

| | *Last six months 1 January to 31 June 2010* | | *Last 12 months 1 July 2009 to 31 June 2010* | | *Last two years 1 July 2008 to 31 June 2010* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of consignments refused entry* | *Weight in KG* | *Number of consignments refused entry* | *Weight in KG* | *Number of consignments refused entry* | *Weight in KG* |
| Heathrow | 6 | 23,075 | 14 | 42,413 | 317 | 302,630 |
| Manchester | 0 | — | 0 | — | 30 | 6,659 |

The following tables show the quantity of fresh fruit and vegetables and cut flowers examined and refused entry by the PHSI at Heathrow and Manchester airports in the last six months, 12 months and two years. Where consignments are subject to HMI and PHSI controls and the HMI decide to inspect a commodity, their inspection includes inspection for PHSI purposes. As a consequence, there is likely to be a small amount of overlap between the HMI and PHSI tables.

*Heathrow airport*

| | *Period* | *Number consignments examined* | *Weight examined (tonnes)* | *Number stems examined* | *Number consignments rejected* | *Weight rejected (tonnes)* | *Number stems rejected* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Produce | 6 months | 844 | 767 | — | 54 | 10.7 | — |
| | 12 months | 1,986 | 1,930 | — | 91 | 24.88 | — |
| | 24 months | 7,600 | 3,980 | — | 197 | 43.72 | — |
| Flowers | 6 months | 191 | 124 | 4,585,268 | 3 | — | 12,592 |
| | 12 months | 359 | 222 | 6,955,726 | 6 | — | 19,402 |
| | 24 months | 1,067 | 742 | 20,611,020 | 12 | — | 44,162 |

*Manchester airport*

| | *Period* | *Number consignments examined* | *Weight examined (tonnes)* | *Number stems examined* | *Number consignments rejected* | *Weight rejected (tonnes)* | *Number stems rejected* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Produce | 6 months | 943 | 390 | — | 24 | 3.03 | — |
| | 12 months | 2,311 | 1,131 | — | 49 | 24.99 | — |
| | 24 months | 5,005 | 2,616 | — | 164 | 123.03 | — |
| Flowers | 6 months | 101 | 15 | 671,000 | 0 | — | 0 |
| | 12 months | 238 | 41 | 2,095,000 | 0 | — | 0 |
| | 24 months | 649 | 1,277 | 5,149,000 | 9 | — | 193,335 |

*Notes:*

1. Six months: January 2010 to June 2010
2. 12 months: July 2009 to June 2010
3. 24 months: July 2008 to June 2010

*Source:*

The Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate

## Veterinary Services

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on the provision of veterinary services of the implementation of a tendering process for the procurement of official veterinarian services under the Public Contract Regulations 2006. [3876]

**Mr Paice:** The Department has reviewed its current contract for official veterinarian services and is initiating the preparation of a procurement strategy and a formal procurement process for the provision of these services under the normal procurement rules that relate to this type and level of expenditure. The assessment of veterinary services requirements is included in the preparation of the procurement strategy. We are also planning to consult with the profession and run workshops with interested parties to help them respond to a tender.

## TRANSPORT

### A5-M1

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues and officials on the effects on house building and economic development of the time taken to build the A5-M1 link. [3900]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 23 June 2010]:* As part of the spending review we will be considering the benefits of the A5-M1 Link, alongside all other schemes covered by the review, in order to reach decisions on future funding and scheme delivery timetables.

### Bus Services: Leeds

**Rachel Reeves:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much his Department has spent on the Quality Bus scheme on the A65 in Leeds; [4107]

(2) whether the work on the Quality Bus scheme on the A65 in Leeds for which his Department is responsible is to be completed; [4108]

(3) what the process of review is for the Quality Bus scheme on the A65 in Leeds. [4110]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* The Department for Transport has provided £2.12 million to date for the A65 Quality Bus scheme. The Full Approval decision for this scheme was reconfirmed following a review of all spending decisions taken since 1 January. There is no further review planned for this scheme and it is expected that construction of the scheme will be completed in June 2012.

### Network Rail: Finance

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the proposed reduction to the budget of Network Rail will be made in Wales. [1671]

**Mrs Villiers:** Network Rail is required by the independent Office of Rail Regulation's five-year Periodic Review settlement to deliver efficiency savings of 24% by the end of March 2014. It falls to Network Rail to determine how to make those efficiency savings.

Network Rail has now indicated that, subject to the agreement of the Office of Rail Regulation, it will reduce its spending by a further £100 million on interventions which yield relatively lower value for money in comparison to other programmes. The benefit to the taxpayer will be realised this financial year but the reduction in expenditure will be implemented over the remainder of the five-year Control Period 4 to the end of March 2014.

Network Rail has not given any indication of what portion of this proposed reduction in expenditure will affect Wales.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Network Rail in respect of its planned reduction in expenditure of £100 million in 2010-11; and what the outcome was of those discussions. [2301]

**Mrs Villiers:** Network Rail is required by the independent Office of Rail Regulation's five-year Periodic Review settlement to deliver efficiency savings of 24% by the end of March 2014. It falls to Network Rail to determine how to make those efficiency savings.

Network Rail has now indicated that, subject to the agreement of the Office of Rail Regulation, it will reduce its spending by a further £100 million on interventions which yield relatively lower value for money in comparison to other programmes. The benefit to the taxpayer will be realised this financial year but the reduction in expenditure will be implemented over the remainder of the five-year Control Period 4 to the end of March 2014.

This reduction in expenditure will include the programme of station enhancements announced in November 2009 and other elements for Network Rail to determine.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the number of jobs in the rail industry of the planned £100 million expenditure reductions by Network Rail in 2010-11. [2303]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport has not made any such assessment. Network Rail is required by the independent Office of Rail Regulation's five-year Periodic Review settlement to deliver efficiency savings of 24% by the end of March 2014. It falls to Network Rail to determine how to make those efficiency savings.

Network Rail has now indicated that, subject to the agreement of the Office of Rail Regulation, it will reduce its spending by a further £100 million on interventions which yield relatively lower value for money in comparison to other programmes. The benefit to the taxpayer will be realised this financial year but the reduction in expenditure will be implemented over the remainder of the five-year Control Period 4 to the end of March 2014.

Network Rail has not indicated that its planned expenditure reductions will have any impact upon employment levels.

### Railways: Construction

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to make provision for property blight after the Exceptional Hardship Scheme ends. [3072]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The consultation period for the proposed Exceptional Hardship Scheme closed on 17 June, and no decisions have yet been taken about how such a scheme might operate or for how long it would last. The statutory blight regime would apply to any route confirmed for a new high speed line following public consultation. However, a number of responses to the Exceptional Hardship Scheme consultation have mentioned the desirability of provisions to address wider property blight over and above that covered by the statutory blight regime throughout the development period for any new high speed line. This is one of the issues Ministers will look at in identifying how to proceed.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the report by High Speed 2 Ltd on the route for high speed rail. [4164]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** The work set out in my recent letter to the chairman of High Speed 2 Ltd can be accommodated within the company's agreed budget for 2010-11 of £21.1 million (plus incurred VAT).

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to receive further recommendations for high speed rail routes from High Speed 2 Ltd. [4167]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** I have recently written to the chairman of High Speed 2 Ltd to set out the further work that I have asked the company to take forward. My letter to HS2 Ltd can be accessed on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2remit/

### Railways: Franchises

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he gave to activating the option for companies bidding for the East Coast, Greater Anglia and Essex Thameside rail franchises to apply for longer franchises of up to 22 years. [4174]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* As a step towards implementing the coalition agreement proposals on rail franchising, the Government have decided to hold a consultation on future franchising policy, which will include franchise duration. The consultation will be launched shortly and be considered by the Secretary of State in due course.

### Roads: Thornton

**Bill Esterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the Thornton to Switch Island relief road project. [4612]

**Norman Baker:** In his written ministerial statement to the House on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 35WS, regarding local authority major schemes the Secretary of State for Transport made it clear that the Department will not be able to identify those major investments that can be supported until the conclusion of the Government's spending review in the autumn.

Therefore at this time I cannot provide any assurances on funding for the Thornton to Switch Island Link scheme.

### Thameslink Railway Line

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made a decision on proposals by Network Rail to terminate all Thameslink Wimbledon Loop services at London Blackfriars from 2015. [3808]

**Mrs Villiers:** No decision has been made on the way in which Wimbledon loop services will operate after the completion of the Thameslink Programme.

I announced a consultation on a review of franchise policy in the House on 17 June, and this will inform the Government's decisions on how rail services are specified in the future, with a view to improving outcomes for passengers and facilitating private sector investment in the railways.

## DEFENCE

### Ammunition

**Jim Shannon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what tests have been carried out on the non-lethal ammunition to be issued to the armed forces. [4115]

**Peter Luff:** Environmental and safety testing, and medical trials are carried out to ensure that the rounds are safe and suitable for service, safe to be fired through the approved weapon, and that potential risks to the human target are mitigated by design or restrictions on use.

### Defence Equipment

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost to the public purse is of all equipment programmes being managed by Defence Equipment and Support. [4352]

**Peter Luff:** The estimated cost to the public purse in financial year 2010-11 of equipment programmes managed by Defence Equipment and Support is approximately £16.54 billion. This is made up of approximately £13.88 billion for the core Ministry of Defence programme and £2.66 billion in support of current operations.

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many equipment programmes run by Defence Equipment and Support have been subject to review since the general election. [4353]

**Peter Luff:** As part of the exercise initiated by the Treasury to reconsider approvals granted since 1 January 2010, 57 equipment programmes have been subject to review, the majority of which are run by Defence Equipment and Support. The results of this process were announced by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 1040. In addition, the Strategic Defence and Security Review will review all major equipment and support contracts and this work is ongoing.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* reductions in civilian staff and *(b)* other efficiency savings were achieved in his Department in the last five years. [2779]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* The net variations—based on total intake less total outflow figures—are shown in the following table. The headcount figures, which include net changes in numbers of Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel, are rounded to the nearest 10:

| | Headcount |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | -3,800 |
| 2006-07 | -4,720 |
| 2007-08 | -5,700 |
| 2008-09 | -2,230 |
| 2009-10 | -380 |

Although figures of equivalent detail are not held centrally on the MOD's overseas workforce, available data shows that locally employed civilian numbers have varied over the same period as follows:

| | Headcount |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | +630 |
| 2006-07 | -1,000 |
| 2007-08 | -2,200 |
| 2008-09 | -810 |
| 2009-10 | -810 |

Efficiency or value for money targets were set out in Spending Review 2004 and Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. The way in which savings were measured has varied between the two periods and so direct comparisons between the spending reviews are not possible. These savings have been reported annually in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts and the overall annual savings have been reproduced below; these include savings through reductions in civilian staff.

Savings throughout the two periods were either used to relieve cost pressures or to allow more to be spent on Defence priorities.

*Spending Review 2004 for the period 2005-06 to 2007-08: "Gershon" Efficiency Programme*

| | | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
| Cumulative annual savings against April 2004 baseline | 1,485 | 2,376 | 3,045 |

*Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 for the period 2008-09 to 2009-10: Value for Money programme*

| | | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
| Annual savings against April 2008 baseline | 650 | 1,800 |

The National Audit Office is auditing the savings under the current Spending Review period.

Further information on all these savings, including details on how they were measured, can be found in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts, which can be found at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports

### European Fighter Aircraft

**Diana R. Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on continuing the remaining tranches of the Typhoon fighter project. [4029]

**Peter Luff:** All our fast jet capabilities, including Typhoon, are being reviewed as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review to ensure the programme is coherent with the future defence needs of the United Kingdom.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts Council England: Finance

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport by how much and in what proportion the budget of the Arts Council is to be reduced in 2010-11; how much funding his Department allocated to the Arts Council in the last three financial years; and how much funding it will receive in 2010-11. [3558]

**Mr Vaizey:** The overall budget for Arts Council England in 2010-11 has been reduced by £10 million (2%) to £459 million. Total budget figures which include all Exchequer funding but exclude lottery funding for this year and the previous three years are in the table:

| *Financial year* | *Budget (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 428 |
| 2008-09 | 435 |
| 2009-10 (provisional) | 455 |
| 2010-11 (projection) | 459 |

### Arts Council England: Written Questions

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to send to the Editor of the *Official Report* for publication the text of each letter sent in response to questions for written answer from hon. Members on the work of the Arts Council. [3537]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Department is currently reviewing how it answers written parliamentary questions about its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). However, we have no current plans to send to the *Official Report* for publication copies of previous substantive answers to questions from hon. Members on the work of the Arts Council. However, copies of the substantive answers have been placed in the House Libraries.

### Ascot Festival 2010

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* officials from his Department attended the Ascot Festival 2010 in an official capacity. [4279]

**John Penrose:** No Ministers or officials attended the Ascot Festival 2010.

### Bingo: Closures

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of bingo clubs which have closed in each of the last five years. [4024]

**John Penrose:** The Department does not hold this information. However, a range of statistics on the gambling industry, including the number of bingo clubs in operation, has been published annually by the Gambling Commission since 2005-06 and can be found at:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/ghabout_us/annual_report_and_accounts.aspx

## Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* gifts and *(b)* corporate entertainment and hospitality (i) he, (ii) other Ministers and (iii) officials from his Department have received on each date since 11 May 2010. [4280]

**John Penrose:** Gifts, corporate entertainment and hospitality received by Ministers in the Department since 11 May 2010 are shown in the table:

| | *Date* |
|---|---|
| *Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport* | |
| Two tickets to FA Cup Final | 15 May |
| 7 x DVDs, courtesy of British Film Institute | 4 June |
| World Cup England v Algeria. Two tickets provided by FIFA | 18 June |
| Two-night stay, High Commissioner's Residence, South Africa | 17-18 June |
| *Minister for Tourism and Heritage* | |
| National Trust Mug | 24 May |
| VisitBritain Mug | 24 May |
| VisitEngland Mug | 24 May |
| Book from English Heritage | 2 June |
| *Minister for Sport and Olympics* | |
| Framed Picture—British Gliding Association | 26 May |
| England v Bangladesh Test Match, on invitation from the ICC | 27 May |
| World Cup England v USA. Ticket provided by FIFA | 12 June |
| Wimbledon Championships, on invitation from All England Lawn Tennis Association | 24 June |
| 1 x ticket to the FA Cup Final | 15 May |
| One-night stay, High Commissioner's Residence, South Africa. | 21 June |
| *Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries* | |
| Dinner, courtesy of the Royal Institute of British Architects. | 18 May |
| Taxi fare, courtesy of PPL | 19 May |
| Ticket to Ivor Novello Awards and Awards Lunch, courtesy of British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors | 20 May |
| Ticket to Rambert at Sadler's Wells, courtesy of Sadler's Wells | 25 May |
| 7 x DVDs, courtesy of British Film Institute | 4 June |
| Travel from London to the Founders Forum Symposium, Hampshire | 17 June |
| Two-night stay, food and concert tickets at Aldeburgh Festival, courtesy of Britten Pears Foundation | 19 June |
| Book, courtesy of the Museum of London | 26 June |

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport by what proportion his Department's budget will be reduced in 2010-11. [3553]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** As a consequence of the recent £6.2 billion budget reduction announced on 24 May 2010, my Department's overall DEL (Departmental Expenditure Limit) budget will be reduced by 4% (£88 million) in 2010-11.

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to his Department's press notice of 17 June 2010, on its cost savings, whether the decision not to proceed with the projects referred to will have Barnett consequentials for Wales. [4395]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** Of the projects that I decided not to proceed with, as announced in the press release of 17 June, the following have a Barnett consequential for Wales:

Free Swimming
Stonehenge Visitor Centre
Find Your Talent
A Night Less Ordinary

## Gambling

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* individual officials of each grade and *(b)* sections of his Department are responsible for gambling and gambling licences. [4281]

**John Penrose:** The Department is not responsible for gambling licences. The Gambling Commission and local authorities hold this responsibility.

Gambling and gaming policy forms part of the DCMS Leisure Sector Team. In total, eight of my officials are fully or partly responsible for gambling policy issues. These include one deputy director, one grade A (upper), two grade As, three grade Bs and one grade C.

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has received recent representations from *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Local Government Association on gambling and gambling licences. [4282]

**John Penrose:** According to our records, the Secretary of State has received no recent representations from local authorities or the Local Government Association on gambling and gambling licences.

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what correspondence his Department has had with *(a)* the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(b)* the Department for Communities and Local Government on gambling licences and betting shops; [4283]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Business, Innovation and Skills and *(b)* Communities and Local Government on gambling licences and betting shops since his appointment. [4593]

**John Penrose:** The Secretary of State has held no discussions with his counterparts at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), or the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) on gambling licences or betting shops since his appointment.

Officials at the Department have previously held discussions with colleagues in CLG on the clustering of betting shops. They have not specifically been in correspondence with officials from BIS about betting shops, but are in regular contact on broad issues around gambling regulation.

### Horse Guards Parade: Flags

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons the Rwandan Flag was not included in the display of Commonwealth Flags on Horse Guards Parade on the occasion of the official birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. [4500]

**John Penrose:** Rwanda joined the Commonwealth in November 2009. There are now 54 Commonwealth nations, and only 53 flagpole sockets on Horseguards road.

We have commissioned the necessary works, and the Rwandan flag will be flown at the next state occasion.

### Museums and Galleries: Finance

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the implementation of proposals to build an extension to *(a)* Tate Modern and *(b)* the British Museum is to be funded (i) at the level and (ii) to the timetable set out on 16 October 2009. [3550]

**Mr Vaizey:** The Government provided £28.707 million towards the extension to Tate Modern and £10.68 million towards the British Museum's World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre in the years 2008-10. I have taken no decisions to change the level at which these projects are funded or the timetable to which they should be completed. Decisions for future years will be a matter for the forthcoming spending review.

### National Lottery: Grants

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the administration costs were of each lottery funding distributor in the last three financial years. [3555]

**John Penrose:** Lottery distributors' administration costs can be found in their annual reports and accounts but, for the convenience of the right hon. Member's researchers, are reproduced as follows. However, they are not recorded on a consistent basis making direct comparison between distributors difficult. Reducing these costs and ensuring more money gets to the good causes is a priority for the Government. The first step will be working with the lottery distributors over the coming months to develop a uniform and transparent measure of administrative costs.

*Lottery distributors' administration costs*

| | | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2008-09* | *2007-08* | *2006-07* |
| Big Lottery Fund | 56.8 | 60 | [1]65.5 |
| Arts Council England | 16.55 | 17.37 | 20.28 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | 20.5 | 20.58 | 20.34 |
| Sport England | 21.38 | 22.05 | 18.76 |
| UK Sport | 2.74 | 2.27 | 1.84 |
| UK Film Council | 7.8 | 7.83 | 7.71 |
| Olympic Lottery Distributor | 0.73 | 0.75 | 0.35 |
| Scottish Arts Council[2] | 0.93 | 1.04 | 1.19 |
| Scottish Screen[2] | 0.49 | 0.46 | 0.36 |
| Sport Scotland[2] | 3.53 | 3.43 | 3.67 |
| Arts Council Wales[2] | 1.55 | 1.72 | 1.72 |
| Sports Council Wales[2] | 2.12 | 2.32 | 2.11 |
| Arts Council NI[2] | 1.12 | 0.996 | 1.15 |
| Sport NI[2] | 0.65 | 0.80 | 0.73 |

[1] Big Lottery Fund's 2006-07 accounts also include costs of delivering non-lottery programmes. This is the revised figure produced in the 2007-08 accounts that excludes non-lottery costs.
[2] Not DCMS bodies

*Note:*

The latest annual accounts show the above figures (although they are not directly comparable).

### National Museums Liverpool: Finance

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on National Museums Liverpool of reductions in expenditure on his Department's creative partnerships programme; and if he will make a statement. [4008]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* The Creative Partnerships programme is delivered by Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE). Following the £19 million post-election cut to Arts Council England's 2010-11 grant in aid by DCMS, the Arts Council has reduced 2010-11 funding to CCE by 4%. This is in line with its own budget reduction.

CCE has stated that it will absorb the cut within the organisation without impacting on the schools and children involved in the Creative Partnerships creative learning programme. Therefore this should not have any impact on the National Museum of Liverpool.

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on the arts in Liverpool of the ending of the pilot project between National Museums Liverpool and Creativity, Culture and Education; and if he will make a statement. [4100]

**Mr Vaizey** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* The Find Your Talent pathfinder programme was cancelled as part of a package of savings announced by the Department on 17 June 2010. No assessment has yet been made by Creativity, Culture and Education on the impact of this decision on National Museums Liverpool, but existing commitments will be honoured.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Affordable Housing

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he intends to take to encourage home ownership among those on low incomes; [4446]

(2) whether he plans to retain Government schemes to assist low and middle income families to enter the housing market. [4447]

**Grant Shapps:** We are reviewing options in the context of the Spending Review. This Government have committed to support those who aspire to own their own home—including by promoting shared ownership schemes—and to helping social tenants and others to own or part-own their home. More broadly, this Government are seeking to return economic stability which will improve the situation for first-time buyers.

The new Government are concerned that home ownership has fallen to its lowest level for nearly 20 years and the number of first-time buyers is at its lowest level since modern records began.

### Coalfields Regeneration Review

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will publish in full the report of the Coalfields Regeneration Review; [4530]

(2) on what dates the members of the Coalfields Regeneration Review group have met since the review was announced; [4552]

(3) if he will meet the chair of the Coalfields Regeneration Review to discuss the progress of the Review; [4600]

(4) what progress has been made on the Coalfields Regeneration Review; when he expects to receive the report of the Review; and if he will make a statement. [4601]

**Grant Shapps:** Since the Coalfields Regeneration Review was announced in March 2010, the review board, chaired by Michael Clapham, has met six times, and taken evidence from various partners, organisations and delivery bodies. Details are set out in the following table:

| *Dates of board meeting* | *Attendees at evidence sessions with partners, organisations and delivery bodies* |
|---|---|
| 13 April | Homes and Communities Agency |
| 27 April | National Audit Office, Audit Commission |
| 11 May | Coalfields Regeneration Trust |
| 25 May | Enterprise Ventures Regional Development Agency, Government Office North West, Coalfield Community representative, Regional Local Authority/Industrial Communities Alliance representative |
| 8 June | Regional Local Authority Councillor, Sheffield Hallam University, Renaissance South Yorkshire |
| 22 June | Department of Health, Homes and Communities Agency |

Further meetings and discussions are scheduled. As part of the review programme a wider written consultation has been issued to enable all interested parties to contribute to the review. Responses are due to be returned by 30 June.

I will be meeting with the chair of the review on 30 June to discuss progress, and look forward to receiving the final report by the end of August 2010. It is my intention, subject to Michael Clapham's agreement, to publish the Regeneration Review report in full.

### Community Development: Hastings

**Amber Rudd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of the Communitybuilders programme in the borough of Hastings; and what assessment he has made of the potential of that programme to contribute to the regeneration of the Hastings pier. [3935]

**Robert Neill** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]*: Hastings Pier & White Rock Trust has been awarded development and feasibility grants from the Communitybuilders programme so that it can develop plans to regenerate the pier as a community asset. Awards of feasibility grants do not carry a commitment for further investment and no decision has been taken at this time.

### Community Development: Religion

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent under the Prevent Violent Extremism Next Steps for Communities Programme on *(a)* Muslim groups, *(b)* groups from other faiths and *(c)* groups with no faith affiliation in 2009-10. [4379]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department spent £27 million to support local partnership activity to prevent violent extremism in 2009-10, of which £16.5 million was allocated to local authorities through the un-ringfenced Area Based Grant, which gives local authorities discretion on how funding is allocated.

The Department's programme budget funds a variety of groups that undertake a range of Prevent activity. Funding has been made to a variety of organisations and is not defined or recorded by religious affiliation.

### Consultants

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts his Department has entered into with external consultants since the Government came into office; and what the *(a)* name of the consultants, *(b)* terms of reference of the work, *(c)* monetary value of the contract and *(d)* expected date of completion of the work is in each case. [3594]

**Robert Neill:** No new contracts with external consultants have been let since the Government came into office.

### Council Housing: Construction

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department intends to take to increase the number of local authority homes under construction. [4417]

**Grant Shapps:** My Department will continue to support the construction of new affordable homes from all providers, including local authorities, through the National

Affordable Housing Programme. It is of course important that in the current financial climate we support those schemes that offer the best value for money.

### Decentralisation and Localism Bill

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials have been assigned to work on the Decentralisation and Localism Bill. [3890]

**Greg Clark:** This would be a major piece of legislation spanning many housing, planning and local government issues and consequently engages a range of officials from across the Department.

### Departmental Voluntary Work

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of his Department's staff took up *(a)* all and *(b)* part of the leave for volunteering to which they were entitled in the financial year 2009-10. [3882]

**Robert Neill:** This information is not held centrally. However we know anecdotally that a considerable number of staff are involved with voluntary activities, which the Department encourages.

### Development Plans: Blackpool

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what aspect of Planning Policy Statement 1 on delivering sustainable communities he considered before deciding not to call in the development application to Blackpool borough council, reference 09/0740, for determination. [4373]

**Robert Neill:** On the issue of sustainability the Secretary of State has had regard to the site's location, design, settlement patterns, amenities, accessibility and its environmental impact. In this respect my right hon. Friend has taken account of the assessment provided in the site's sustainability appraisal in comparison with other sites, including brownfield sites, and in relation to the emerging policies of the local development framework.

My right hon. Friend has also had regard to all representations made concerning the proposal.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the concerns raised by his Department over the loss of versatile agricultural land arising from the development application to Blackpool borough council, reference 09/0740, before he decided not to call it in for determination. [4375]

**Robert Neill:** The site referred to contains 11.2 hectares of land which could be readily used for agriculture. This falls below the 20 hectares threshold for statutory consultation with DEFRA, as set out in Article 10 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995. In this case I understand that Blackpool council consulted with DEFRA, and though the council was urged to have regard to such a loss, there was no objection to the application. Therefore, there was no requirement for the Secretary of State to engage in discussions with DEFRA.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he had with representatives of Sport England on that organisation's concerns on the lack of wider assessment of sport and recreation facilities in the development application to Blackpool borough council, reference 09/0740, before deciding not to call it in for determination. [4376]

**Robert Neill:** Sport England did not formally comment on this planning application. They had commented on a previous application, and these comments were taken into account by Blackpool council. The council considered on-site and off-site open space provisions, together with a village green, and it was considered that the possible deficiencies in future sports provision appeared to be fairly marginal. The Secretary of State considered the representations in determining whether or not to call in the application. On propriety grounds it would not be appropriate to enter discussions with bodies making representations, including Sport England.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he had with representatives of the Campaign to Protect Rural England on that organisation's objections to the development application to Blackpool borough council, reference 09/0740, before deciding not to call it in for determination. [4377]

**Robert Neill:** The Campaign to Protect Rural England's comments were taken into account by Blackpool council in its consideration of this application, including matters relating to housing land supply situation, housing need, and loss of agricultural and recreation land. The Secretary of State considered these representations in deciding whether or not to call in the application. On propriety grounds it would not be appropriate to enter discussions with bodies making representations, including the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

### Fairgrounds: Planning

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning regulations apply to fairgrounds. [4380]

**Robert Neill:** Fairgrounds are normally treated as a temporary land use and regarded as permitted development, provided that they operate for 28 days or less in a calendar year. Where a more permanent use is proposed a planning application would need to be submitted to the local authority and determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

National Planning Policy in respect of fairgrounds as a permanent land use is set out in PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth.

### Housing: Construction

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of housing starts that were attributable to expenditure from the public purse in 2009. [4056]

**Grant Shapps** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]*: The Department does not make estimates of the number and proportion of housing starts that are directly attributable to public investment. Figures are available on the number of new build starts that took place under the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP), Local Authority New Build (LANB), Kickstart and the Property and Regeneration (PR) programmes. However, it is not possible to assess whether some of these housing starts would have been delivered by the private sector anyway if funding were not available.

Data underlying the official statistics published by the Homes and Communities Agency have been analysed to identify new build starts on site with public funding under the programmes identified above. They show that there were 45,600 housing starts in 2009 with grant funding under NAHP, LANB and PR programmes. In addition a further 840 units were started with assistance from the Kickstart programme. These estimates cannot be directly compared with figures on the total number of house building starts collected by CLG as they are from different sources.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if his Department will undertake a review of the value for money of funding for housing private finance initiative schemes. [4313]

**Andrew Stunell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 368W.

### Housing: Empty Property

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to bring more empty and unoccupied homes into use. [3093]

**Grant Shapps:** We are looking closely at the cause and nature of empty homes and the full range of potential measures to bring empty homes back into use as part of a well functioning housing market.

### Housing: Tower Hamlets

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to the London borough of Tower Hamlets for the purposes of servicing debt on its Housing Revenue Account in each year since 1997. [4121]

**Andrew Stunell:** The level of subsidy support for assumed housing debt in Tower Hamlets for each year since 1997 is given in the following table:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *Assumed debt* | *Subsidy support* |
| 1997 | 544,126,894 | 62,152,789 |
| 1998 | 533,054,816 | 60,507,383 |
| 1999 | 527,793,050 | 58,220,978 |
| 2000 | 524,568,619 | 57,100,723 |
| 2001 | 546,081,198 | 58,293,848 |
| 2002 | 524,554,220 | 56,255,604 |
| 2003 | 500,890,319 | 53,615,977 |
| 2004 | 510,724,857 | 44,196,295 |
| 2005 | 525,688,446 | 41,070,458 |
| 2006 | 542,253,159 | 33,886,728 |
| 2007 | 458,125,638 | 30,693,187 |
| 2008 | 427,181,831 | 27,178,045 |
| 2009 | 387,103,259 | 23,912,055 |
| 2010 | 402,805,259 | 22,924,165 |

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* Housing Investment Programme and *(b)* Major Repairs Allowance funding was allocated to council housing in the London borough of Tower Hamlets in each year since 1997. [4122]

**Andrew Stunell:** The table shows the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) element of Basic Credit Approval (BCA) allocations for the London borough of Tower Hamlets between 1997-2001. Each authority's HRA BCA, which enabled borrowing for capital expenditure, was based on allocations established as part of the Housing Investment Programme (HIP) process.

The table also shows Tower Hamlets' Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) funding from 2001, when the allowance was introduced, and allocations of Supported Capital Expenditure for Decent Homes investment on which Government agreed to support debt financing costs within the HRA subsidy system.

*Tower Hamlets*

| | *Stock* | *HRA BCA (£)* | *Supported capital expenditure (£)* | *MRA (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 37,443 | 8,246,000 | — | — |
| 1998-99 | 37,060 | 8,954,000 | — | — |
| 1999-2000 | 34,554 | 8,616,000 | — | — |
| 2000-01 | 31,176 | 24,111,000 | — | — |
| 2001-02 | 28,523 | — | — | 22,854,909 |
| 2002-03 | 26,841 | — | — | 22,031,093 |
| 2003-04 | 25,744 | — | — | 22,172,277 |
| 2004-05 | 24,330 | — | 15,150,000 | 21,399,059 |
| 2005-06 | 20,016 | — | 19,378,000 | 17,828,962 |
| 2006-07 | 16,566 | — | 15,795,000 | 14,662,675 |
| 2007-08 | 14,216 | — | 15,593,000 | 12,926,410 |
| 2008-09 | 13,078 | — | 15,500,000 | 11,823,308 |
| 2009-10 | 13,092 | — | 15,500,000 | 12,556,364 |
| 2010-11 | 13,057 | — | 15,500,000 | 12,912,932 |

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* social rented homes and *(b)* low cost home ownership homes were built in the London borough of Tower Hamlets in each year since 1997. [4123]

**Andrew Stunell:** The number of social rented and low cost home ownership units built in Tower Hamlets in each year since 1997 is shown in the table.

It should also be noted that not all affordable housing is provided through new-build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2008-09, for example, a total of 1,280 additional affordable homes were provided in Tower Hamlets.

*Table 1: Number of new build affordable units in Tower Hamlets*

| | *Social rent* | *Intermediate rent* | *LCHO* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 240 | — | 80 | 310 |
| 1998-99 | 240 | — | 0 | 240 |
| 1999-2000 | 220 | — | 50 | 270 |
| 2000-01 | 210 | — | 60 | 260 |
| 2001-02 | 360 | — | 70 | 420 |
| 2002-03 | 340 | — | 150 | 490 |
| 2003-04 | 400 | — | 200 | 600 |
| 2004-05 | 210 | — | 110 | 320 |
| 2005-06 | 830 | 10 | 200 | 1,030 |
| 2006-07 | 760 | 50 | 300 | 1,100 |
| 2007-08 | 660 | 140 | 480 | 1,280 |
| 2008-09 | 430 | 120 | 510 | 1,060 |

*Note:*
Rounded to nearest 10 units.
*Source:*
CLG Official Statistics on gross affordable housing supply

The next CLG Affordable Housing statistical release containing figures for 2009-10 is scheduled to be published in the autumn of 2010.

### Local Government Bill

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister will have lead responsibility for the Local Government Bill. [3892]

**Robert Neill:** The Local Government Bill was introduced into the House of Lords on 26 May 2010, with Baroness Hanham being the Government Minister having lead responsibility for the Bill in that House.

The Minister with lead policy responsibility for the Bill is the Housing and Local Government Minister, my right hon. friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps).

### Local Government Finance

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS, on the local government savings package, what the in-year change in grant funding from his Department to each local authority is in 2010-11; and what revenue funding his Department has allocated to each local authority for 2010-11. [4321]

**Robert Neill:** We have asked local authorities to make a contribution of £1.166 billion to the £6.2 billion of cross-Government savings in 2010-11 to enable the Government to take immediate action to start to tackle the fiscal deficit. Of this, £358.5 million will come from my Department's budget and £ 175.0 million will come from the budget which my Department holds on behalf of Government as a whole.

The reduction in grants for individual local authorities for which final allocations had been announced is set out in the document made available to the House at the time of the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS. The document also sets out the main revenue allocations paid to each local authority including formula grant and area based grant.

Local authorities are free to make their own decisions about where savings are found. We have ensured that councils have the flexibility to take decisions locally on how to deliver the savings needed without impacting on essential frontline services.

### Mortgages: Government Assistance

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of the *(a)* Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme, *(b)* Mortgage Rescue Scheme, *(c)* Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme and *(d)* free national advice line and website. [4448]

**Grant Shapps:** I am currently conducting a review of the Department's schemes to help homeowners struggling to pay their mortgage and make sure they offer the best deal for homeowners and taxpayers alike. Government have already taken steps at Budget to improve the sustainability and value for money of Support for Mortgage Interest and I will continue to work closely with colleagues across Government through the comprehensive spending review (CSR) to ensure support for struggling homeowners is delivered in an effective and sustainable way.

### Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the merits of introducing transitional rate relief for petrol stations whose business rates have increased as a result of the April 2010 rating revaluation. [4300]

**Robert Neill:** A transitional relief scheme was introduced on 1 April 2010 which limits the annual increases in bills for those ratepayers facing large rises as a result of the 2010 revaluation. The transitional relief scheme applies to all sectors including petrol filling stations. The new Government are aware of concerns about large increases in rateable value for petrol stations and will be looking to meet representatives of the industry to discuss their concerns.

### Planning: Minerals

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to amend the controls governing mineral safeguarding areas near settlements in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [3984]

**Robert Neill:** Existing national planning policy for mineral safeguarding is contained in Minerals Policy Statement 1: Planning and Minerals (MPS1) (2006). In the coalition agreement the Government stated that they will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

## Public Expenditure

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance he has issued to his Department's executive agencies on the *(a)* suspension and *(b)* implementation of programme spending. [4418]

**Robert Neill:** HM Treasury guidance to Departments on spending controls, issued by way of a finance director letter on 26 May, was forwarded by CLG's interim senior finance director to finance directors of the Department's Executive agencies with a covering note on 28 May. Agency chief executives and finance directors have attended a series of regular meetings to discuss spending controls and approvals and other matters in recent weeks.

## Regeneration: Stepney

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the £41 million funding allocated to the regeneration of the Ocean Estate in Stepney by the Homes and Communities Agency has been included in the Government's review of public expenditure decisions. [4149]

**Andrew Stunell:** Grant funding of £41 million to help deliver new affordable homes on the Ocean estate was approved and allocated by the HCA on 3 March 2010, and work began on site later that month. The scheme was not included in the Government's review of public expenditure decisions.

## Social Rented Housing: Finance

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to each of the arm's length management organisations in round six of his Department's programme; and if he will make a statement. [4150]

**Andrew Stunell:** The following table sets out the overall indicative capital funding allocations that have been agreed with each of the round six arm's length management organisations to deliver a Decent Homes investment programme.

| *ALMO* | *Funding total (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| Enfield | 137 |
| Basildon | 142 |
| Blackpool | 66 |
| Haringey | 198 |
| Havering | 112 |
| Salford | 68 |
| Stevenage | 55 |
| Sutton | 112 |
| Charnwood | 35 |
| Lambeth Living | [1]— |
| Lewisham | 145 |
| North East Derbyshire | 64 |
| Redbridge | 36 |
| Sedgemoor | 40 |
| Tower Hamlets | 222 |

[1] To be confirmed.

## Social Rented Housing: Inspections

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what inspection rating the Audit Commission has given to each arm's length management organisation since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [4151]

**Robert Neill:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

*Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 28 June 2010:*

Parliamentary Question: What inspection rating the Audit Commission has given to each arm's length management organisation since 2001.

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

Since 2001, the Audit Commission has published 136 ratings of Arm's Length Management Organisations (ALMOs). The ratings have been produced following an inspection, required by Government, to allow access to capital funding if service provision is assessed as good (two star) or better. The ALMOs are then re-inspected to assess if the ALMO has maintained, or reached, a good (two star) standard of service provision. A copy of the list of ratings showing when they were published is attached.

A copy of this letter will appear in Hansard and a copy of the list has been placed in the Library of the House.

## Social Rented Housing: Standards

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the number of jobs supported through work on the Decent Homes programme in each of the last five years; [3888]

(2) whether his Department has made a recent estimate of the number of jobs created per £1 million of funding allocated for the refurbishment of existing homes. [3895]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Department has not made a specific estimate of the number of jobs supported through work on the Decent Homes programme in each of the last five years. However, the Department has estimated that, in 2009, every £1 million of investment in home refurbishment supported 17 net jobs for a year. This figure takes account of direct jobs supported in the industry and indirect (supply chain) jobs. It also takes account of displacement effects, where increased investment in housing refurbishment takes investment (and associated jobs) away from other parts of the economy.

## Travellers: Caravan Sites

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to bring forward plans to change the powers available to local authorities to remove Travellers from unauthorised encampments. [4323]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Government will ensure that, where local councils have made appropriate provision for authorised sites in their area which reflects genuine local need and historic demand, those councils will be given stronger enforcement powers to deal with unauthorised encampments.

The Government are reviewing how this can be achieved and announcements will be made in due course.

### Wind Power: Planning Permission

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to amend the planning controls affecting proposals for wind farms near national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty; and if he will make a statement. [3997]

**Robert Neill** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]*: The coalition programme states that the Government will radically reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live, based on the principles set out in the Conservative party publication 'Open Source Planning'. We will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning policy framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy shortly.

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend the planning laws in respect of proposals for windfarms near wetland areas. [4346]

**Robert Neill:** The coalition programme states that the Government will radically reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live, based on the principles set out in the Conservative Party publication Open Source Planning. We will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning policy framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy shortly.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Carers' Benefits

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to provide support for carers seeking to re-enter the workforce after their caring responsibilities have ended. [3464]

**Maria Miller:** In December 2009, Jobcentre Plus introduced Work Focused Support for Carers (WFSC). This aims to support carers who wish to combine paid work with their caring responsibilities and those carers re-entering the workforce after their caring responsibilities have ended.

WFSC does this by widening the provision of employment support for carers to every carer who works less than 16 hours per week and by the provision of funding for replacement care for those carers on approved activity.

For a period of eight weeks following an end to caring responsibilities a carer will beeligible for support through WFSC.

In addition most Jobcentre Plus offices have now introduced a Carer's Champion personal adviser to help carers with the barriers they may face when looking to re-enter the workplace.

### Children: Maintenance

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases were raised with the Child Support Agency by the hon. or right hon. Member for each constituency in the period from May 2005 to May 2010. [2887]

**Maria Miller:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases were raised with the Child Support Agency by the hon. or right hon. member from each constituency in the period from May 2005 to May 2010. [2887]

Management information on correspondence broken down by Parliamentary Constituency is only available at disproportionate costs.

The table below provides the volume of correspondence received from MPs which includes both case specific and general correspondence.

| | *MP correspondence* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 15,600 |
| 2006-07 | 12,900 |
| 2007-08 | 14,000 |
| 2008-09 | 18,400 |
| 2009-10 | 16,500 |

*Notes:*

1. Information provided up to March 2010.
2. MP hotline data included from April 2008.
3. Prior to March 2009, figures for MP direct (where an MP contacts someone in the organisation other than the Commissioner/Chief Executive) include only complaints and not general enquiries.
4. Multiple correspondence may be received for a single complaint.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Departmental Consultants

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts his Department has entered into with external consultants since the Government came into office; and what the *(a)* name of the consultants, *(b)* terms of reference of the work, *(c)* monetary value of the contract and *(d)* expected date of completion of the work is in each case. [3595]

**Chris Grayling:** DWP has entered into two contracts since the Government came into office:

*(a)* the name of the consultants for both contracts is Oliver Wyman Consulting Ltd

*(b)* terms of reference of the work for both contracts is:

To support the Minister for Welfare Reform and departmental team in developing an implementation plan for reform of the benefits system. This will include, but is not limited to, (1) Assessing options for streamlined payment methods, (2) Auditing existing DWP dynamic models, and ensuring best practice is captured to underpin robust analysis, and (3) Developing preliminary scenarios and business cases for specific reforms to the payment levels of benefits for in-work households.

*(c)* monetary value of the contracts:

Contract 1—£13,888

Contract 2—£13,000

and

*(d)* expected date of completion of the work in both cases is 23 August.

### Departmental Reviews

**Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 137W, on Government departments: reviews, what reviews his Department is undertaking; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* timescale of each is. [2588]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department for Work and Pensions will be carrying out the reviews necessary to enable it to meet the commitments set out in the Coalition Agreement and announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget on 22 June 2010.

On 24 June 2010, the Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Thornby and Yate (Steve Webb) announced two-key reviews as part of the Government's strategy to reinvigorate retirement *Official Report*, columns 21-22WS.

We are currently drawing together plans for other reviews and will provide more detailed information in due course.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Liz Kendall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households are in receipt of disability living allowance in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leicester and *(c)* Leicester West constituency. [4606]

**Maria Miller:** The information requested is not available by household. Recipients of Disability Living Allowance are as follows:

*November 2009*

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| England | 2,536,100 |
| Leicester local authority | 16,990 |
| Leicester West parliamentary constituency | 5,830 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Constituencies used for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
3. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

### Disability Living Allowance: Wythenshawe

**Paul Goggins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in each ward of Wythenshawe and Sale East constituency are in receipt of disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [4641]

**Maria Miller:** The information is as follows:

*Disability living allowance claimants at ward level in Wythenshawe and Sale East parliamentary constituency: November 2009*

| *Ward* | *In payment* |
|---|---|
| Baguley | 1,090 |
| Benchill | 1,375 |
| Brooklands (Manchester) | 985 |
| Brooklands (Trafford) | 310 |
| Northenden | 1,060 |
| Priory | 380 |
| Sale Moor | 545 |
| Sharston | 945 |
| Woodhouse Park | 1,095 |

*Notes:*
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest five; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Case loads show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Wards in Wythenshawe and Sale East are allocated using 2003 Census Area Statistics (CAS) wards and Lower Super Output Areas (SOA) in England and Wales and Data Zones in Scotland.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. Parliamentary constituency is allocated by a 'best fit' methodology to the new Westminster parliamentary constituencies. Further information is available on the Office for National Statistics website at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/west-parl-con.asp

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employment and support allowance claimants who have been found fit for work *(a)* are in employment, *(b)* are in receipt of each type of benefit and *(c)* are of unknown status. [2625]

**Maria Miller:** The available information on the outcomes of employment and support allowance claims is published in the form of official statistics on the Department for Work and Pensions website. The statistics detail the number of claims allocated to the Support Group, Work Related Activity Group and those found Fit for Work. The statistics were last updated in April 2010 and published in the report 'Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment: Official Statistics: April 2010', a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

There was a total of 517,900 claims for employment and support allowance from 27 October 2008 to 31 August 2009. The results of the initial work capability assessment are set out in the following table.

The available information is in the table.

*Employment and support allowance on-flows of claim start and result of initial functional assessment*

| *Outcome* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Support Group | 27,600 | 5 |
| Work-Related Activity Group | 66,600 | 13 |
| Fit for Work | 201,600 | 39 |
| Claim closed before the assessment completed | 194,000 | 37 |
| Assessment still in progress | 28,100 | 5 |

*Note:*
1. Percentages do not sum due to rounding.

*Source:*
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_27042010.pdf

The full publication is also available on the internet at the following address:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

Information on the employment status and benefit take-up of claimants found Fit for Work is not currently available.

**Dr Whiteford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* policies and *(b)* practices are in place to ensure that vulnerable people who apply for employment and support allowance who are found fit for work receive benefits to which they are entitled. [2627]

**Chris Grayling:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Darra Singh:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what policies and practices are in place to ensure vulnerable people who apply for Employment and Support Allowance and are found fit for work receive benefits to which they are entitled. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

People of working age who are found fit for work receive a letter telling them that they are no longer entitled to Employment and Support Allowance. The letter also explains that the decision can be looked at again, and that Employment and Support Allowance may continue pending an appeal to an independent tribunal.

They are also advised that they may be able to claim Jobseeker's Allowance if they are unemployed and are given information on how to make a claim. Claims for Jobseeker's Allowance are normally made by telephone through our contact centre network or on-line through the Directgov Internet site. For those who are unable to use a telephone or computer Jobcentre Plus has arrangements in place to provide a face-to-face claim service at the nearest Jobcentre.

To be eligible for Jobseeker's Allowance people generally have to be available immediately for work for 40 hours per week and take steps each week to actively seek work. However, easements within the Jobseeker's Allowance rules allow our advisers to take account of physical or mental health conditions when considering whether the steps taken to seek work in any week are reasonable. Similarly, they can consider reasonable limitations in availability for work, taking account of physical or mental condition. This could affect the type of work which a customer could undertake, the number of hours they could work each week or the distance they are able to travel to take work. As you would expect, our advisors will discuss all the available options with each person on an individual basis.

We also have specialist Disability Employment Advisers in each district who have in-depth knowledge of the locally available programmes and services for those with disabilities. They can help to identify suitable job opportunities and liaise with employers and external partners on behalf of those using Jobcentre Plus services.

## Future Jobs Fund

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people have been employed through the Future Jobs Fund in each region; and how much has been spent under the fund in each region. [4362]

**Chris Grayling:** The available information is in the tables.

*Future Jobs Fund starts in Great Britain by country/region: October 2009 to January 2010*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| East Midlands | 640 |
| East of England | 390 |
| London | 840 |
| North East | 420 |
| North West | 1,300 |
| Scotland | 830 |
| South East | 280 |
| South West | 280 |
| Wales | 690 |
| West Midlands | 940 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 700 |
| Unknown | 1,340 |

*Notes:*

1. These figures are official statistics and are published periodically by the Office for National Statistics. The latest release may be found at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/jsa/ypg/ypf_fjf_24052010.pdf
2. The Future Jobs Fund is not available in Northern Ireland. 3. Due to the way Future Jobs Fund data are collected using informed consent, the number of unknown characteristic values may be significantly higher when compared with other Young Persons Guarantee strands.

*Source:*

First set of official statistics on the Young Person's Guarantee.

It is not possible to provide actual spend by region at this time. The following table provides the total value of grants issued by region.

*Future Jobs Fund grants awarded in Great Britain by country/region as at 19 June 2010*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| East Midlands | 21.2 |
| East of England | 16.4 |
| London | 43.6 |
| North East | 29.5 |
| North West | 112.5 |
| Scotland | 62.0 |
| South East | 27.3 |
| South West | 18.7 |
| Wales | 54.7 |
| West Midlands | 63.3 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 40.1 |
| National | 123.5 |
| Total grants rounded to nearest £100,000 | 613.1 |

*Notes:*

1. The figures provided are for total grants awarded as agreed by the Department for Work and Pensions as at 19 June 2010 by Jobcentre Plus region (analogous with Government office regions). These may be subject to downward revision.
2. Bids which encompass more than one region are shown as "National".

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions internal Management Information on the grants awarded.

## Housing Benefit

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the effect on the level of demand for affordable housing of reductions to housing benefit in each of the next five years. [4532]

**Steve Webb:** Ministers from this Department regularly meet with their colleagues in other departments including those at Communities and Local Government to discuss cross cutting issues.

**Liz Kendall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households receive housing benefit of more than *(a)* £250 per week for a one bedroom property, *(b)* £290 per week for a two bedroom property, *(c)* £340 per week for a three bedroom property and *(d)* £400 per week for a four bedroom property in (i) England, (ii) Leicester and (iii) Leicester West constituency. [4607]

**Steve Webb:** At March 2010, for housing benefit claims in England assessed under the local housing allowance arrangements, our records show there were:

3,340 recipients with a one-bedroom entitlement receiving over £250 per week;

6,970 recipients with a two-bedroom entitlement receiving over £290 per week;

2,710 recipients with a three-bedroom entitlement receiving over £340 per week; and

1,010 recipients with a four-bedroom entitlement receiving over £400 per week.

In the Leicester local authority there were no households receiving housing benefit above the levels specified.

Information is not available at the constituency level.

*Notes:*

1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 recipients.

2. The Single Housing Benefit Extract does not have bedroom entitlement recorded in 6% of the local housing allowance cases so there may be some underestimation in the numbers reported.

*Source:*

Single Housing Benefit Extract

**Mrs McGuire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales are in receipt of housing benefit in excess of £100,000 per year. [4634]

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were paid more than £100,000 per year in housing benefit in the latest period for which figures are available. [4674]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is not available.

### Incapacity Benefit: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency have had their entitlement to incapacity benefit reassessed in each of the last three years. [3305]

**Chris Grayling:** Data on the number of people in Bexleyheath and Crayford that have had their entitlement to Incapacity Benefit reassessed in each of the last three years are not available.

### Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the effect on the number of staff employed in Jobcentre Plus offices of the changes to benefit entitlement proposed in the 2010 Budget HC61. [4654]

**Chris Grayling:** The change in conditionality for lone parents announced in the Budget on 22 June will not come into effect until 2011-12, so there is no immediate impact on Jobcentre Plus staff. The Department publishes its overall staffing and spending plans for each Spending Review period and the current plans finish in 2010-11. The Department for Work and Pensions plans for 2011-12 to 2014-15 will be announced on 20 October 2010 in the Spending Review settlement set out by HM Treasury.

### Pension Credit

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the pension credit minimum income guarantee is to be revised in line with the basic state pension increase in *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* subsequent years. [4648]

**Steve Webb:** In 2011, in the event that the basic state pension is increased by more than earnings under the terms of the 'triple lock', the Government's intention is that as a minimum all single pension credit recipients will benefit from the full cash value of this increase. For 2012-13 and in subsequent years decisions about rates of benefit and pensions will be decided in light of actual earnings and price growth as part of the normal budget process. There is a statutory requirement that the pension credit standard minimum guarantee will be uprated in least in line with earnings.

### Pregnant Women: Grants

**Liz Kendall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households received the Sure Start maternity grant for a second child in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leicester and *(c)* Leicester West constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [4604]

**Maria Miller:** The number of Sure Start maternity grants awarded is available only by Government Office Region and Jobcentre Plus Social Fund Budget Area, not by local authority or parliamentary constituency. The exact number of awards for a second or subsequent maternity in England in 2009-10 is not available, but is estimated to be 125,000 (rounded to the nearest 1,000).

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of women who will not now be entitled to claim Sure Start maternity grant under the Government's proposals in each year to 2014-15. [4663]

**Steve Webb:** From April next year the Sure Start maternity grant will be concentrated on helping low income parents cope with the additional costs resulting from the birth of their first child. The expectation is that most of the goods and equipment bought for the first child will be reused for any subsequent children.

During the first two years of the operation of the Sure Start maternity grant 2000-01 to 2002-03, the value of the grant increased three times from £200 to the current £500. Had the original £200 payment been increased with prices it would now be worth £246.

The estimated numbers of Sure Start maternity grants which will not now be awarded in Great Britain for second and subsequent children as a consequence of this proposal are:

| | Number of awards |
|---|---|
| 2011-12 | 144,000 |
| 2012-13 | 144,000 |
| 2013-14 | 144,000 |
| 2014-15 | 145,000 |

*Note:*
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

### Social Security Benefits

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the monetary value of each benefit to be paid by his Department *(a)* under current uprating rules and *(b)* uprated in line with the consumer price index in each year to 2015-16. [4664]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is provided in the following table for the main working-age benefits[1] paid by the Department for Work and Pensions that will now be uprated by the consumer price index as announced in the recent emergency budget.

These rates are estimated using the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecasts for growth and are consistent with the analysis published in the Budget Report 22nd June 2010. These rates are indicative only as actual levels of inflation are likely to differ from forecasts.

| | | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* | *2015-16* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Attendance and disability living allowances—highest rates | RPI uprating | 73.40 | 75.90 | 78.20 | 80.70 | 83.45 |
| | CPI uprating | 73.45 | 75.35 | 76.80 | 78.35 | 79.90 |
| Carer's allowance | RPI uprating | 55.40 | 57.30 | 59.00 | 60.90 | 62.95 |
| | CPI uprating | 55.45 | 56.90 | 58.00 | 59.15 | 60.35 |
| Employment support allowance | RPI (Rossi) uprating | 68.40 | 70.45 | 72.15 | 73.95 | 75.80 |
| | CPI uprating | 67.35 | 69.10 | 70.40 | 71.80 | 73.25 |
| Industrial injuries disablement benefit—100% rate | RPI uprating | 149.75 | 154.85 | 159.50 | 164.60 | 170.20 |
| | CPI uprating | 150.05 | 153.95 | 156.90 | 160.05 | 163.25 |
| Jobseeker's allowance and income support | RPI(Rossi) uprating | 68.40 | 70.45 | 72.15 | 73.95 | 75.80 |
| | CPI uprating | 67.35 | 69.10 | 70.40 | 71.80 | 73.25 |
| Bereavement benefit—basic component | RPI uprating | 101.85 | 105.30 | 108.45 | 111.90 | 115.70 |
| | CPI uprating | 100.50 | 103.10 | 105.65 | 107.15 | 109.30 |

[1] From 2011 the only main pensioner benefit subject to uprating by reference to price inflation will be the additional state pension. Additional state pension is mainly earnings related and therefore payable at a wide variety of rates.

### Social Security Benefits: Disability

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many applications were made to the Independent Living Fund in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; [2093]

(2) how many approvals were granted of funding from the Independent Living Fund in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [2094]

**Maria Miller:** The available information is in the table.

*Applications made to the Independent Living Fund and new awards made, 2005-06 to 2009-10*

| | *England* | | *Wales* | | *Scotland* | | *Northern Ireland* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Applications* | *Received* | *Awards* | *Received* | *Awards* | *Received* | *Awards* | *Received* | *Awards* |
| 2005-06 | 2,672 | 2,145 | 291 | 239 | 507 | 434 | 158 | 114 |
| 2006-07 | 3,646 | 2,633 | 343 | 253 | 698 | 553 | 174 | 112 |
| 2007-08 | 4,633 | 3,209 | 375 | 270 | 816 | 617 | 162 | 112 |
| 2008-09 | 2,254 | 1,465 | 214 | 159 | 387 | 284 | 144 | 103 |
| 2009-10 | 3,504 | 2,125 | 364 | 269 | 664 | 484 | 159 | 122 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are based on data as at 9 June 2010.
2. Some offers made in 2009-10 have yet to be accepted by the applicant so the 2009-10 award rates may be subject to slight change.
*Source:*
Independent Living Fund.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many applications were made by persons working more than 16 hours per week to the Independent Living Fund in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; [2095]

(2) how many approvals were granted of funding to persons working more than 16 hours per week through the Independent Living Fund in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [2096]

**Maria Miller:** The information is only available from April 2008 and is in the table.

*Applications made to the Independent Living Fund and new awards made 2008-09 to 2009-10 for people working for more than 16 hours per week*[1]

| | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Applications* | *Received* | *Awards* | *Received* | *Awards* |
| England | 21 | 18 | 30 | 21 |
| Wales | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Scotland | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| Northern Ireland | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Whether an applicant is in work or not has only been recorded since 1 April 2008.

*Source:*

Independent Living Fund.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the budget was of the Independent Living Fund in each year from 2005 to 2010. [2097]

**Maria Miller:** The information is in the table.

*Independent Living Fund budget*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 231.610 |
| 2006-07 | 253.401 |
| 2007-08 | 288.439 |
| 2008-09 | 343.000 |
| 2009-10 | 338.000 |

*Note:*

Figures are for Great Britain.

*Source:*

Independent Living Fund.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the total budget for the Independent Living Fund was allocated through the fund in each year from 2005 to 2010. [2098]

**Maria Miller:** The available information is in the table.

*Percentage of Independent Living Fund spend paid to users*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 97.0 |
| 2006-07 | 97.1 |
| 2007-08 | 97.3 |
| 2008-09 | 97.4 |
| 2009-10 | 97.2 |

*Notes:*

1. The percentages refer to Great Britain.
2. The remainder of the budget is spent on admin.

*Source:*

Independent Living Fund.

## State Retirement Pensions

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the retail prices index each September is used as the basis for calculating the increase in public service pension in the next financial year. [4403]

**Steve Webb:** There is a statutory requirement that public service pensions are uprated by the same percentage as additional state pension. The Secretary of State is required by law to increase additional state pensions to ensure that they maintain their value in relation to the general level of prices obtaining in Great Britain estimated in such manner as he thinks fit.

The Chancellor announced in the Budget that the 2011 and subsequent upratings of benefits and pensions by reference to price inflation will use the Consumer Prices Index as the benchmark because it best reflects the expenditure patterns and living costs of social security benefit and pension recipients. Further details are set out in paragraph 1.106 of the Budget Report.

## State Retirement Pensions: Redcar

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Redcar constituency are claiming the state pension. [4382]

**Steve Webb:** As at November 2009, there were 18,770 claimants of the state pension in Redcar parliamentary constituency.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituency of claimants is for Westminster Parliament. These constituencies are used for the Westminster Parliament for May 2005.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

## State Second Pension

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the savings which would accrue from the uprating of the additional state pension in line with the Consumer Prices Index *(a)* over the period of the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecasts and *(b)* in each successive five-year period to 2050; [4504]

(2) how many people he expects to receive the additional state pension *(a)* in 2010-11, *(b)* in each of the next five years and *(c)* in each successive five year period to 2050. [4557]

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average payment under the additional state pension if it were uprated in line with the *(a)* retail prices index and *(b)* consumer prices index in each year to 2015-16. [4667]

**Steve Webb:** The information is not currently available, but will be made available by Friday, 9 July.

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to uprate the additional state pension in line with the consumer prices index. [4505]

**Steve Webb:** The Chancellor announced in the Budget that the 2011 and subsequent upratings of benefits and pensions, including the state second pension, by reference to price inflation will use the consumer prices index as the benchmark because it best reflects the expenditure patterns and living costs of social security benefit and pension recipients. Further details are set out in paragraph 1.106 of the Budget report.

### Unemployment Benefits: Peterborough

**Mr Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Peterborough constituency were claiming out of work benefits in *(a)* the latest period for which figures are available, *(b)* March 2010, *(c)* March 2009 and *(d)* March 2008; and if he will make a statement. [2797]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The available information is in the following table.

*Claimants of out of work benefits in Peterborough constituency*

| | *All* | *Jobseeker's allowance* | *Incapacity benefits* | *Income support/pension credit* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| February 2008 | 9,150 | 2,060 | 4,900 | 2,370 |
| February 2009 | 10,550 | 3,380 | 4,950 | 2,420 |
| November 2009 | 10,980 | 3,650 | 5,230 | 2,340 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Benefits are arranged hierarchically and claimants are assigned to the topmost benefit which they receive.
3. Incapacity Benefits—includes claimants of Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, or Employment and Support Allowance.
4. Income Support/Pension Credit—includes claimants of Income Support, including lone parents and men age 60 to 64 claiming Pension Credit who are not also claiming Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance. Income Support also includes claimants with a disability premium but not Income Support with Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance as they are shown in the Incapacity Benefits column.
5. The most recent available data are for November 2009.
6. Parliamentary constituency of claimant is as at May 2005 General Election.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

### Vocational Training: Disability

**Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the Residential Training for Disabled Adults programme and the continuing involvement of existing providers in that programme. [2805]

**Maria Miller:** As with all specialist disability employment provision, we are considering the way forward and support for Residential Training for Disabled Adults. We will make an announcement in due course.

We are committed to supporting severely disabled people and are currently reviewing the most effective way of doing this.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether special advisers in his Department provided advice to Ministers on the funding decisions announced on 17 May 2010. [3724]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The decision to cancel five development awareness projects in the UK was taken following an initial review of those areas of expenditure where the link between project activities and poverty reduction in the developing world was least demonstrated.

Special advisers provide input into a range of decisions, in line with the Special Advisers Code of Conduct.

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received from organisations whose funding from his Department was cancelled on 17 May 2010. [3766]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has received letters from four of the five organisations affected by the cancellation of funding on 17 May 2010.

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received from multilateral organisations since the announcement of his Department's review of multilateral aid spending on 9 June 2010. [3767]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has not received any direct representations from multilateral organisations since the announcement of the multilateral aid review on 9 June 2010. I have written to the heads of those multilateral organisations covered by the review to inform them of its purpose. My Department will continue to engage with these organisations during the review process.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which external organisations *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have met since their appointment; and what the purpose of each such meeting was. [3728]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) publishes a list of all ministerial meetings with outside interest groups every quarter. Details of ministerial meetings for the period 13 May to 31 July will be published in August.

### Developing Countries: Maternity Services

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Government's aid programmes on maternal health and women's rights. [4000]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** In the coming months the Department for International Development (DFID) will be reviewing its aid programme to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Maternal health and women's rights are major priorities for the UK Government and an area which the Prime Minister has personally championed. We want to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to modern family planning methods and promoting women's choice in the developing world. The recent G8 Summit, which the Prime Minister attended, has delivered a significant boost to efforts to improve maternal and child health. It is estimated that the G8 Muskoka Initiative will prevent 1.3 million under five child deaths, 64,000 maternal deaths and enable an additional 12 million women to have access to modern family planning in the period 2010-15.

### UN Agencies

**Mr Douglas Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had discussions with the head of the *(a)* United Nations Development Programme, *(b)* UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and *(c)* United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation since his appointment. [3729]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** I have had discussions with Helen Clark and Irina Bokova several times. I have not yet had the opportunity to speak with Dr Jacques Diouf since the general election.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Bangladesh: Counter-terrorism

**Mrs Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Bangladeshi government on allegations of human rights abuses relating to *(a)* Faisal Mostafa, *(b)* Gulam Mustafa and *(c)* other British nationals committed by Bangladeshi counter-terrorism officials; whether the Government have requested the Bangladeshi authorities to investigate any British nationals; and if he will make a statement. [3315]

**Alistair Burt:** We take all allegations of mistreatment seriously and, with the consent of the individual concerned, raise them vigorously with the appropriate authorities.

It is not our normal procedure to go into detail about individual consular cases as we have a duty to respect privacy. We have provided, and will continue to provide consular assistance to British nationals detained in Bangladesh in line with our publicly stated policy, and have raised various concerns with the Bangladeshi authorities at senior levels when asked to do so. In all our dealings with British nationals detained in Bangladesh their welfare is our primary concern.

We have consistently called on Bangladesh to ensure that all arrests, detentions and trials are conducted with respect for fundamental individual rights, consistent with international obligations.

It is the policy of the Government not to comment on operational intelligence matters, including whether we have asked foreign Governments to investigate British nationals.

### Jamal Elshayyal

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Israeli Government on the case of Jamal Elshayyal following his detention on the Mavi Marmara. [4440]

**Alistair Burt:** I have raised several issues in relation to the British nationals who were on board Mavi Marmara with Israel's ambassador to the UK. Our ambassador to Israel and other members of the British embassy have also raised the matter on a number of occasions with the Israeli authorities. It has also been raised by the EU presidency, on behalf of EU heads of mission, with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Among the issues raised was that of three missing British passports, including Mr El Shayyal's. I can now confirm that we have recently received all three passports. These will be returned to the holders. The Government and officials on the ground have spent significant time and resources assisting British nationals in this case. We will continue to seek clarification on the missing possessions and to underline the importance of ensuring that the Commission established by Israel provides a full, credible, impartial and independent investigation that the international community can respect.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Constituencies

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his proposals to change parliamentary constituency boundaries will apply in the same way to each of the constituent parts of the UK. [4499]

**Mr Harper:** Proposals to implement this aspect of the coalition agreement are being carefully considered within Government. Details will be announced in due course and Parliament will have the opportunity to debate them.

### Dissolution

**Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to proceed with his proposal for a 55 per cent. majority requirement to trigger a dissolution of Parliament if it is voted for by more than 50 per cent. but less than 55 per cent. of *(a)* Members of the House and *(b)* Members voting. [4294]

**Mr Harper:** As I made clear to the hon. Member on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 146, the Bill establishing Fixed Term Parliaments will be considered on the Floor of the House and Members will have the opportunity to debate it in detail then.

### Voting Rights: Prisoners

**Michael Dugher:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans his Department has to bring forward proposals to allow prisoners to vote in elections. [3977]

**Mr Harper:** The Government are considering afresh the best way forward on the issue of prisoner voting rights.

### Youth Citizenship Commission

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to respond to the recommendations of the Youth Citizenship Commission. [4588]

**Mr Harper:** The previous Government commissioned the Youth Citizenship Commission's report and responded to its recommendations in February this year. A link to their response is as follows:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/333826/youthengagement.pdf

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Members: Travel

**Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will introduce a scheme to pay for extended travel by *(a)* all hon. Members and *(b)* Opposition Front-Bench spokespersons. [4292]

**Sir George Young:** The payment of expenses to hon. Members, including travel expenses, is a matter for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. There is a specific element of Short Money which is provided to meet the cost of official travel by Opposition Front-Bench spokespeople.

**Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Leader of the House how much was paid for extended travel by *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* hon. Members of each of the three largest parties and *(c)* hon. Members who were Front-Bench spokespersons for Opposition parties in each year of the 2005 to 2010 Parliament. [4293]

**Sir George Young:** The overall amount paid to hon. Members for extended travel in each of the financial years from 2005-06 to 2010-11 was as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 66,310 |
| 2006-07 | 109,984 |
| 2007-08 | 122,960 |
| 2008-09 | 115,009 |
| 2009-10 | 77,756 |
| 2010-11 | 544 |

The remainder of the information is not available in the form requested and can be collated only at disproportionate cost.

## JUSTICE

### Cardiff Prison

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget was of HM Prison Cardiff for 2009-10; and what budget has been allocated to the prison for 2010-11. [3897]

**Mr Blunt:** The budget for HMP Cardiff in 2009-10 was £16,318,824.

The budget for HMP Cardiff for 2010-11 is £16,418,674.

### Defamation

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to bring forward proposals for the reform of libel law. [3873]

**Mr Djanogly:** We are committed to reviewing the law on defamation to protect free speech, and are currently considering the issues involved.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review; [3644]

(2) how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3666]

**Mr Blunt:** The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is undertaking a review of 1,300 contracts with third party suppliers. The value of contracts under review is £1.6 billion per annum.

There are 140 staff within MoJ that are engaged in renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services. It is expected that this exercise will take two years and result in savings in the region of £75 million. Using existing staff for this exercise will ensure that the Department does not incur additional expenditure.

### Departmental Translation Services

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* documents and *(b)* other information for which (i) his Department and (ii) its associated public bodies are responsible are published or provided in the UK in languages other than English; for what reason each such publication is required to be made available in a language or languages other than English; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the translation work so incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [1772]

**Mr Djanogly:** The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) does not centrally collect information on the number, nature and cost of translations into languages other than English and it could be given only at disproportionate cost. This would involve contacting a large number of agencies associated with the department. Retrieving the data would involve searching their individual records.

The MoJ translates documents into Welsh, treating the Welsh and English languages on a basis of equality in accordance with Section 21 of the Welsh Language Act 1993.

A formal Welsh Language scheme was commenced on 24 March 2010. The scheme covers my department's functions in three areas, policy development, recruitment and provision of services to the public. The scheme applies to the activities generally carried out under the corporate functions of this department.

HM Courts Service Welsh Language Unit, which supports the Ministry to meet its commitments to its published Welsh Language Scheme has been able to supply the information in following table.

During 2009-10 the Welsh Language Unit translated 2,426 documents at a cost of £150,051. These documents were translated to meet the Ministry's Welsh Language Scheme.

| | *Amount* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| *MOJ* | | |
| Consultation Papers/Reports | 16 | 16,414.63 |
| Various (Letters/notices/general information for customers/sentences/agenda/minutes/presentations/newsletters) | 40 | 2,501.01 |
| Press Notice/Advert | 6 | 456.25 |
| Changes to Forms/Leaflets | 35 | 746.00 |
| LIBRA Offences | 30 | [1]— |
| Proofreading | 6 | [1]— |
| Total | 133 | 20,117.89 |
| *Judicial Appointments Commission* | | |
| Application Pack | 11 | 4,119.75 |
| Completed Application Pack | 1 | 34.50 |
| Advert | 4 | 86.25 |
| Various (Letters/notices/general information for customers/sentences/agenda/minutes/presentations/newsletters) | 4 | 782.00 |
| Total | 20 | 5,022.50 |
| *Legal Services Commission* | | |
| Various (Letters/notices/general information for customers/sentences/agenda/minutes/presentations/newsletters) | 22 | 1,978.00 |
| Changes to Forms/Leaflets | 4 | 328 |
| Consultation Papers/Reports | 2 | 1,058.00 |
| Press Notice/Advert | 2 | 92.00 |
| Proofreading | 1 | No cost |
| Total | 31 | 3,455.75 |
| *Office of the Public Guardian* | | |
| Consultation Papers/Reports | 1 | 782.00 |
| Changes to Forms/Leaflets | 4 | 1,559.50 |
| Total | 5 | 2,341.50 |
| *Tribunals Service* | | |
| Various (Letters/notices/general information for customers/sentences/agenda/minutes/presentations/newsletters) | 12 | 854.63 |
| Consultation Papers/Reports | 4 | 4,572 |
| Changes to Forms/Leaflets | 3 | 87.38 |
| Website | 1 | 2,726 |
| Total | 20 | 8,240 |
| *Wales Office* | | |
| Various (Letters/notices/general information for customers/sentences/agenda/minutes/presentations/newsletters) | 17 | 875 |
| Consultation papers/reports | 2 | 2,195 |
| Press notice/advert | 84 | 5,147 |
| Total | 103 | 8,217 |
| *HMI Probation* | | |
| Various (letters/notices/general information for customers/sentences/agenda/minutes/presentations/newsletters) | 4 | 1,165 |
| Consultation Papers/Reports | 8 | 6,492 |
| Total | 12 | 7,657 |
| *HMCS* | | |
| HMCSHQ | | 42 |
| HMCS (courts and office) | — | 2,060 |
| Total requests | — | 2,102 |
| Total external cost | — | 95,000 |
| Grand total amount | | 2,426 |
| Grand total costs | | 150,051 |

[1] No cost

## Dietary Supplements; Channel Islands

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the authorities in *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey on progress in implementing the EU (i) Food Supplements Directive and (ii) Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. [3999]

**Mr Djanogly:** My noble Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Lord McNally) who has policy responsibility for the Crown Dependencies in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has had no discussions with the authorities in Jersey and Guernsey about the Islands' implementation of the Food Supplements Directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. However, MoJ officials are regularly in touch with the Jersey and Guernsey governments about this and other matters.

## Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to answer question 117, on departmental manpower, tabled on 27 May 2010. [3797]

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** I replied to the hon. Member on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 128-29W. I apologise for the delay.

# HEALTH

## Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons Sir David Varney has resigned as interim Chair of the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust; and if he will make a statement. [4416]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This is a matter for Sir David Varney and Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust.

## Carers

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals for an entitlement to free health checks for carers. [4203]

**Mr Burstow:** We are gathering evidence on the effectiveness of health checks for carers and the benefits that both the national health service and carers feel they derive from them. Early findings will be available in October 2010 and the final evaluation will be available in October 2011. Any decisions will be made in the light of this evidence and the spending review.

## Departmental Pay

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 85W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [3247]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The salary ranges for staff in grades AO to Grade 6 in the Department, based in London are set out in the following table. These apply to staff in ministerial private offices.

£

| *Grade* | *Minimum* | *Maximum* |
|---|---|---|
| AO | 19,579 | 23,120 |
| EO | 23,767 | 29,600 |
| HEO | 28,884 | 36,765 |
| Fast Stream | 28,884 | 41,546 |
| SEO | 35,948 | 45,118 |
| Grade 7 | 46,698 | 60,962 |
| Grade 6 | 57,967 | 73,828 |

Salary ranges for senior civil servants are set across the civil service by the Government following recommendations from the Senior Salaries Review Board. For SCS 1 grade these range from £58,200 to £117,800.

## Departmental Standards

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to review the effectiveness of the *(a)* public service agreements and *(b)* vital signs indicators within his Department's area of responsibility. [4127]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We published the revised 2010-11 NHS Operating Framework on 21 June setting out our intention to review the clinical relevance of all existing Vital Signs indicators with the removal of those that have little or no clinical relevance for the next operating framework. There is no intention to review public service agreements which this coalition has ended. A copy of the revised framework has already been placed in the Library.

## Drugs: Prisons

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people in prison who were methadone users in each year since 1997; [3256]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people leaving prison in each year since 1997 who were methadone users. [3257]

**Mr Burstow:** Information on the number of individuals entering or leaving prison with an active methadone prescription is not collected centrally. However, data are available on the number of clinical drug interventions provided in prisons for drug dependency since 2007-08.

In 2007-08, a total of 58,809 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these, 46,291 (79%) received detoxification and 12,518 (21%) a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency of either methadone or buprenorphine.

In 2008-09, a total of 64,767 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these 45,135 (69%) received detoxification and 19,632 (31%) received a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency of either methadone or buprenorphine.

In 2009-10, a total of 60,067 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these 36,323 (61%) received detoxification and 23,744 (39%) received a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency of either methadone or buprenorphine.

Due to funding and implementation of clinical drug treatment services being phased throughout English prisons there has been a gradual year on year increase in the number of drug dependent prisoners accessing evidence-based treatment. Consequently, there has been an increase in the total number of prisoners receiving detoxification or a maintenance prescription.

In prisons, methadone is only used for the treatment of drug dependency and all candidates for it are assessed and treated by medical professionals. Decisions regarding treatment are clinically based and the NHS commissions health services for people in prisons.

## Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have been prescribed methadone in each year since 1997; [3258]

(2) what the annual cost was of prescribing methadone for one patient in each year since 1997. [3259]

**Anne Milton:** Methadone is prescribed for a variety of clinical conditions, including the treatment of opioid (heroin) dependency, chronic pain and cough in terminal illness.

The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects information on the number of people receiving substitute prescribing interventions for substance misuse in England, but does not distinguish between methadone and the other drugs such as buprenorphine which are also recommended for that purpose by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

NDTMS data on the number of people receiving substitute prescribing for the period 2005-06 - 2008-09 are given as follows.

| | *Prescribing* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 110,374 |
| 2006-07 | 122,841 |
| 2007-08 | 138,719 |
| 2008-09 | 149,986 |

Figures prior to 2003 are not available and due to a change in NDTMS methodology in 2008-09, comparable trend data are only available from 2005-06.

Information about the annual cost of prescribing methadone for each person in specialist drug treatment is not collected. However, in 2007-08 a one-off unit cost exercise was carried out by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse, which assessed the average cost of prescribing interventions (including methadone and buprenorphine) per individual per day, during that year. The exercise calculated the cost of specialist prescribing at £6.81 per day, which included dispensing and keyworking costs but not the costs associated with psychosocial or other support interventions received by the individual at the same time.

### Food: Labelling

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will seek to ensure that any EU legislation on a traffic-light colour coding food labelling system is not mandatory in the UK. [4290]

**Anne Milton:** The proposal from the European Commission currently under negotiation in the European Parliament and Council proposes front of pack nutrition labelling information with percentage reference intakes for certain nutrients. It would also allow other forms of expression of the nutrition information as part of national schemes. Although the European Parliament has recently given its opinion in first reading on the proposal negotiations are ongoing with final agreement between the European Parliament and Council not expected until late 2011.

### General Practitioners: Bournemouth

**Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons Ofsted will have responsibility for inspecting Denmark Road medical surgery in Bournemouth East constituency. [2878]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department is not aware of any proposed Ofsted inspections of this medical surgery. However, there are two inspection remits under which Ofsted might visit such a medical surgery—during inspections of children's centres and during safeguarding and looked after children inspections, conducted jointly with the Care Quality Commission.

### Health Services: Liverpool

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any exemptions in respect of changes in patient flows in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* Halton hospital have been made as part of the approval process for the new hospital in Liverpool. [4202]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not held centrally.

However, the North West strategic health authority (SHA) confirms that the process of patient flow and income was assessed as part of the outline business case for proposals for the new hospital developement in Liverpool. This information can be obtained direct from the SHA.

### HIV Infection: Health Services

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of management of the transition of children and young people *(a)* with and *(b)* with family members affected by HIV (i) into adolescent services and (ii) from adolescent to adult services. [3741]

**Anne Milton:** It is for primary care trusts to commission and manage transition arrangements for young people with HIV moving to adolescent, family or adult services. Transitional HIV care should be provided as part of an HIV clinical network and take account of guidance produced by the British HIV Association and the Children's HIV Association. Additionally, in 2007 the Department published good practice guidance on improving the transition of young people with long-term conditions from children's to adult services.

Data from the latest Health Protection Agency Survey of Prevalent HIV Infections Diagnosed show that in 2008 there were 971 children under 14 years receiving HIV care. The British HIV Association's (BHIVA) 2007 standards for HIV make reference to the commissioning of services for families, children and adolescents and their transition into adult services. BHIVA and the Children's HIV Association are in the process of producing clinical guidelines for the treatment and care of adolescents with HIV and transitional care arrangements.

Following the introduction of routine antenatal HIV screening for all pregnant women in 1999 the number of children born in the United Kingdom with HIV has reduced dramatically since the vast majority of pregnant women accept an HIV test. The estimated proportion of exposed infants (born to both diagnosed and undiagnosed HIV-infected women) who became infected has decreased from 12% in 1999 to approximately 2% in 2007. Almost all the children diagnosed with HIV in 2008 were reported to have been infected through mother-to-child transmission, and 60% of them were born abroad.

### Hospitals: Durham

**Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to improve healthcare provision in the areas which would have been served by the proposed North Tees and Hartlepool hospital; [3734]

(2) how much has been spent under each budgetary heading on the proposed North Tees and Hartlepool hospital; [3735]

(3) what costs his Department will incur under each budgetary heading consequent on the cancellation of the contract for the North Tees and Hartlepool hospital; [3791]

(4) on what date the decision to cancel the proposed North Tees and Hartlepool hospital was made; [3792]

(5) what criteria he used in assessing whether the North Tees and Hartlepool hospital programme represented value for money; and if he will make a statement. [3854]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Government's review of spending decisions taken since 1 January this year was to ensure that all the schemes considered were affordable, good value for money and consistent with the Government's priorities. The proposed hospital building scheme for North Tees and Hartlepool NHS foundation trust was assessed against a number of other such NHS build projects at the same stage of development. The announcement of its cancellation formed part of the statement given by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to the House on 17 June.

Where major NHS service changes are proposed, they must meet the strengthened criteria for such decisions as set out in a letter from the NHS chief executive Sir David Nicholson of 20 May to Monitor and all NHS chief executives. This is to ensure that, in future, all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients and not be driven from the top down.

In these harder economic times it is essential that all major hospital building projects must be affordable and provide value for money for the taxpayer. For foundation trusts in particular, all proposals must be consistent with their independent status in terms of their reduced reliance on departmental support. As a foundation trust, North Tees and Hartlepool has borrowing powers and other mechanisms available to it to fund alternative capital investment plans.

The trust will have incurred costs in working up the proposals, in developing the business case and in performing the feasibility studies behind it. As an independent foundation trust this information is a matter for Monitor (the statutory name for the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) and may be obtained by writing to the chairman of Monitor.

The business case approved in March 2010 anticipated a request from the trust to the Department for £8 million to buy the land on the Wynyard Park site for the new hospital. This request was received and met by the Department. If the trust acquired land for which it has no further use than it can be sold to recover the funding.

The local strategic health authority and primary care trust have both pledged to continue working closely with all local NHS organisations to plan and develop the best possible health services for the population of Hartlepool and North Tees and to ensure that the wider Momentum Project—involving bringing health care services closer to communities—will continue.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to implement the recommendations of the Darzi review of acute health services north of the River Tees. [3874]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The recommendations of the Darzi review of acute health services north of the River Tees were superseded by the advice provided by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel to the then Secretary of State for Health in December 2006. This advice formed the basis of the 'Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare' programme which was developed by the local national health service to provide a new health care system for the people of Stockton, Hartlepool, Easington and Sedgefield. We understand that NHS Hartlepool and NHS Stockton-on-Tees will continue to work closely with North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust on delivering the wider Momentum programme, and will be discussing the options available with the trust.

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the implementation of recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel. [3875]

**Mr Simon Burns:** It is the responsibility of the local national health service to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel, provided those recommendations are first endorsed by the Secretary of State for Health.

## Hospitals: Telephones

**Miss Anne McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake an investigation into the standard of provision and cost of bedside telephones in hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [3097]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The provision of these services is a local matter between individual national health service trusts and their chosen supplier. The Department is not party to these contracts. As set out in 'The Coalition: our programme for government', we want to free NHS staff from political micromanagement.

The bedside television and telephone systems provide additional choice for patients and enable them to enjoy benefits they expect to have while in hospital. There is a charge for the provision of these services, which the patient pays directly to the supplier, should they choose to use the services.

## King George Hospital Ilford

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has received the report of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel on the future of King George Hospital, Ilford; whether he plans to publish the report; what recent representations he has received on the future of the hospital; and what plans he has to change the range of services provided at King George Hospital, Ilford. [4354]

**Mr Simon Burns:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has considered and endorsed the initial advice from the Independent Reconfiguration Panel following the referral made by the London borough of Redbridge Health Scrutiny Committee. The advice of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel was subsequently published on its website on 24 June 2010. This can be viewed at:

www.irpanel.org.uk

There have been no recent representations received by the Department on the future of King George hospital. Any proposals to change the range of services at King George hospital will be considered as part of the review of all service change proposals affecting London recently announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State.

## Lipoedema: Health Services

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent *(a)* representations he has received and *(b)* guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the treatment of classic lipoedema in the UK. [4534]

**Mr Burstow:** The Department has received no representations and has issued no guidance to primary care trusts (PCTs) on classic lipoedema. It is for PCTs to assess the health needs of their populations and take that into account when commissioning services. Information on this condition for patients and clinicians is available from the website of the Lymphoedema Support Network and other sources.

### Mental Health Services: Children

**Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how he plans to ensure that primary care trusts involve *(a)* children and young people who access mental health services, *(b)* parents of children and young people who access mental health services and *(c)* mental health professionals working in child and adolescent mental health services in the process for commissioning child and adolescent mental health services at local level. [4177]

**Mr Burstow:** The Government are committed to ensuring a stronger voice for patients and enabling general practitioners (GPs) to commission care on their behalf. The details of what will be required under GP commissioning and during the transition period for primary care trusts are currently being considered.

The National CAMHS Support Service has been funded to carry out a project promoting the participation of children and young people in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The project promotes user participation standards for CAMHS, maps the extent and level of user participation activity in CAMHS, and will develop an online tool for commissioners and providers to improve interaction with children and young people.

### NHS: Pay

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what proportion of national health service employees in Colchester constituency will have their pay frozen as a result of the decision to freeze the wages of public sector workers; [4568]

(2) how many and what proportion of national health service employees will have their pay frozen as a result of the decision to freeze the wages of public sector workers. [4576]

**Mr Simon Burns:** In England, an estimated 820,000 NHS employees currently earn a full-time equivalent (FTE) salary of over £21,000. This is approximately 64% of the Health and Community Health Services (HCHS) work force.

Information on pay is not collected by constituency. Of the HCHS staff employed in the North East Essex primary care trust and the Colchester university hospital NHS trust, 64% currently earn an FTE salary of over £21,000. This equates to an estimated 3,200 HCHS staff.

### Prescription Drugs

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on allowing patients access to drugs recommended by a consultant but not yet evaluated by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [4581]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Where the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not issued guidance on a particular drug or treatment, it is for primary care trusts to make decisions on the funding of such treatments. The Department has made it clear in good practice guidance that an absence of NICE guidance alone is not an acceptable reason to refuse funding for a treatment and patients have a legal right to expect funding decisions to be made rationally following a proper consideration of the available evidence.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Automotive Council

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what funding he intends to allocate to the Automotive Council to implement the recommendations of the recent report of the New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team; [4561]

(2) what plans he has for the future of the Automotive Council; and if he will make a statement; [4562]

(3) whether he plans to implement the recommendations of the recent report of the New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team on the Future of the Automotive Industry in the UK. [4563]

**Mr Prisk:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (as Joint Chair) and I will be attending the Government/industry Automotive Council meeting on 1 July where we will discuss a range of issues on the Council work plan. Strengthening the UK-based automotive supply chain and maximising the benefit to the UK of new and green automotive technologies were two key areas on which the New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team recommendations focused and the Council is already taking work forward in these two areas; working with the Government and with the support of the members of the Supply Chain Working Group and the Technology Working Group. These work areas will continue to be the two priorities.

### Broadband: Witham

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses in Witham constituency have access to internet broadband speeds of 2 megabits per second or higher. [3749]

**Mr Vaizey:** Based on the data available to BIS, which estimates service availability based on length of telephone lines, approximately 89% of households and 84% businesses have access to broadband at 2 Mbps via BT exchanges in the Witham constituency. Access to this speed would be dependent on distance from the exchange, peak time use and wiring in the home. There is also wireless provision in this constituency, which would potentially enable more households and businesses to have access to a 2 Mbps service. Only a physical test of a line would determine its actual service performance in each case.

### Business: Government Assistance

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding will be available from the new Enterprise Capital Fund in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Newcastle. [4822]

**Mr Prisk:** The new Enterprise Capital Fund will provide up to £25 million of Government funding towards a total fund size of up to £37.5 million. Capital for Enterprise Limited will continue final stages of due diligence before a mandate is awarded. This fund will support early stage entrepreneurial growth businesses from across the UK and will have no specific allocations either at national, regional or city level.

### Business: Greater London

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London were registered for VAT in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many new businesses registered for VAT in the same period. [3922]

**Mr Gauke:** I have been asked to reply.

Between 2005 and 2007, the number of businesses which registered for VAT during the year in *(a)* the borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London were as shown in the following table:

*New VAT registrations*

| | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Borough of Bexley | 560 | 560 | 680 |
| The London region | 34,485 | 34,820 | 41,260 |

*Source:* 'Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations', published by the Department for Businesses Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in November 2008. This report is no longer published.

It is not possible to tell how many of these new VAT registrations were for business start-ups rather than businesses which were previously operating below the VAT registration threshold, or are a component of another established business.

### Companies House: Nantgarw

**Owen Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the South Wales Valleys of the proposed closure of the Nantgarw office of Companies House; and if he will make a statement. [4277]

**Mr Davey:** None. Companies House has taken the operational decision to establish a project to consider early closure of its Nantgarw office. There will be no resultant job losses but the project will assess all costs and benefits arising from the prospective closure.

### Competition

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the introduction of a provision to ensure that mergers and takeovers operate in the public interest. [3784]

**Mr Davey:** The Government believe the rules governing takeovers should be examined to ensure they are appropriate. The takeover panel's current consultation on options for amending the Takeover Code is very welcome in this regard. The outcome of that work will inform the Government's thinking about what, if any, further measures it might take.

### Co-operatives and Social Enterprises

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on support for *(a)* co-operatives and *(b)* social enterprises. [2886]

**Mr Prisk:** The coalition agreement commits us to supporting the creation and expansion of co-operatives, mutuals, charities and social enterprises, and enabling these groups to have a much greater involvement in the running of public services. BIS Ministers will work closely with the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd) on this agenda, and in particular to ensure that Government are creating the right conditions to stimulate growth, support business enterprise, promote innovation and improve access to finance in order to meet the new economic and social challenges we are currently facing.

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 501W, on departmental mobile phones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier is in respect of the mobile device issued to each Minister in his Department. [4068]

**Mr Davey** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]*: The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The purchase cost of handsets is nil.

*(b)* The network provider is Vodafone.

*(c)* The tariffs are standard Government tariffs.

*(d)* The supplier of the mobile devices is Vodafone.

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 534W, on departmental mobile telephones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(c)* name of the supplier is in respect of the (i) mobile telephone issued to the Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning and (ii) the BlackBerry devices issued to (A) him, (B) the Minister of State for Universities and Science, (C) the Minister of State for

Business and Enterprise, (D) the Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs and (E) the Parliamentary Secretary for Business, Innovation and Skills. [4684]

**Mr Davey:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The purchase cost of handsets is nil.

*(b)* The network provider is Vodafone.

*(c)* The tariffs are standard Government tariffs.

*(d)* The supplier of the mobile devices is Vodafone.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the advertisement of job vacancies within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [3974]

**Mr Davey:** Any internal vacancy arising in the Department would first be offered to surplus members of staff (those without a post but actively seeking another position) and then advertised within the Department to eligible members of staff. No post will be advertised to non-civil servants unless I have agreed that the post is business critical or is a front line post that directly delivers a service to the public or to business.

### Dietary Supplements: Channel Islands

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made a recent estimate of the monetary value of the trade in food supplements and other health products from the Channel Islands which are imported into the UK. [3998]

**Mr Davey:** This information is not available. For the purposes of the Overseas Trade Statistics, 'UK' is defined as Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and the UK part of the Continental Shelf, so the Overseas Trade Statistics do not cover trade between these places.

### East of England Development Agency

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* running costs and *(b)* expenditure on projects were of the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) in 2009-10; what the salary of the EEDA's Chief Executive was in 2009-10; how much was spent on (i) taxis, (ii) expenses for the Chief Executive and (iii) expenses for other senior officials of the agency in 2009-10; whether the Chief Executive was provided with an official car in 2009-10; and what other benefits the Chief Executive received in 2009-10. [3986]

**Mr Prisk:** The East of England Development Agency's (EEDA's) running costs and expenditure on programme projects in 2009-10 were as follows:

*(a)* 2009-10 running costs: £13.6 million

*(b)* 2009-10 expenditure on programme projects: £116.9 million.

The details requested of the salary and benefits for of EEDA's chief executive in 2009-10 are as follows:

(a) Salary: £140,772

(b) Spent on taxis: £175

(c) Spent on other expenses: £1,082 (expenses are defined as reimbursed costs incurred while conducting EEDA business)

(d) Other benefits received: bonus £13,761; lease car £3,260.

No official car, as defined as the use of a private car with driver, has ever been provided for EEDA's chief executive and this includes 2009-10[1].

Seven other senior officials at EEDA were reimbursed a total of £10,008 in expenses in 2009-10[2].

[1] The chief executive has the choice to opt in or out of EEDA's lease car scheme in the same way as other qualifying staff.

[2] 'Senior officials' is defined as those members of the senior management team whose remuneration is reported in EEDA's annual report and accounts.

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of (a) property, (b) staff and *(c)* administration of each overseas office of the East of England Development Agency in the last 24 months; how much the agency has spent on (i) hotels and (ii) taxis overseas in that period; how many overseas journeys (A) agency staff and (B) accompanying spouses made in that period, and at what cost; what expenses were claimed for on each journey, under each cost category; how many such journeys were undertaken by first-class (1) air and (2) rail travel; and how much and at what rate agency officials claimed in mileage expenses in that period. [4073]

**Mr Prisk:** The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) does not administer any overseas offices. No costs were incurred for property, staff or administration of overseas offices by EEDA in the last 24 months.

EEDA spent a total of £12,405 on overseas travel, including costs for hotels and taxis, in the two years ending 31 March 2010 although to provide full details by cost category requested would incur disproportionate cost. Journeys were undertaken by 23 different staff and Board Members over the two year period. There were no accompanying spouse costs included in this sum.

EEDA's policy is for staff to travel in standard class unless in exceptional circumstances. As such no costs were incurred for either first class air travel or first class train travel in the last 24 months.

In the last 24 months, EEDA officials claimed £383,000 in mileage expenses. This reflects the fact that agency staff are required to travel across the region in order to carry out their work. In line with HM Revenue and Customs recommended rates, this was claimed at a maximum rate of 40p per mile by staff using their own cars. Rates when using leased vehicles were in the range 11p - 17p per mile.

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the East of England Development Agency was allocated to Harlow in each year since the agency was established; how much of the allocated funding was spent; and on which projects it was spent. [4817]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department allocates budgets to Regional Development Agencies. The agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the Accountability and Financial Framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the Regional Economic Strategy and their Corporate Plans. The Department does not hold details of individual projects supported by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

### East of England Development Agency: Great Yarmouth

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the East of England Development Agency spent on projects and programmes in Great Yarmouth in the last 24 months. [4402]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department allocates budgets to Regional Development Agencies. The Agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the Accountability and Financial Framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the Regional Economic Strategy and their Corporate Plans. The Department does not hold details of individual projects supported by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects his Department to conclude its review of the education maintenance allowance scheme. [1441]

**Mr Gibb:** I have been asked to reply.

I can confirm that the education maintenance allowance (EMA) will be paid in full this year. In addition, eligible students may also get support for child care costs through the care to learn scheme, and hardship funds are provided to eligible students through discretionary learner support funds.

### Fossil Fuels: Export Credit Guarantees

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 456W, on fossil fuels: export credits guarantees, what steps he plans to take to end Export Credits Guarantee Department support for future fossil fuel energy projects. [4399]

**Mr Davey:** Ministers will be considering with the Export Credits Guarantee Department, UK Trade and Investment and other Departments how best to take forward the commitment in the coalition programme to

> "ensure that UK Trade and Investment and the Export Credits Guarantee Department become champions for British companies that develop and export innovative green technologies around the world, instead of supporting investment in dirty fossil-fuel energy production."

An announcement will be made in due course.

### Higher Education: Finance

**Joan Ruddock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on university funding of the introduction of the points-based system of immigration. [3697]

**Mr Willetts:** Overall assessments of the impact of the points-based system, including tier 4 (students), on universities, businesses and other users were published by the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) in 2008 when the new system was introduced. A further impact assessment was published in April 2010, following the changes made earlier this year, in which UKBA stated that there would be no "impact on the ability of institutions to recruit and earn revenue from genuine [international] students."

In 2008/09, UK higher education institutions received £2.2 billion in tuition fee income from students from outside the European Union, 8.7% of their total income. International student numbers have continued to grow over recent years. According to data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) the number of enrolments from non-European economic area students in 2008/09, the latest year for which figures are available, shows an increase of 9.4% over the previous year.

### Higher Education: Hartlepool

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to increase the provision of higher education facilities and courses in Hartlepool constituency. [3448]

**Mr Willetts:** There are no specific plans to increase the provision of higher education facilities in the Hartlepool constituency. It is for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to make decisions on the future allocation of student numbers in line with their established criteria. A range of higher education courses are available in Hartlepool. Cleveland College of Art and Design has a site in Hartlepool dedicated to higher education provision which is validated by Teesside University. In addition, Hartlepool Sixth Form College and Hartlepool College of further education have seen significant growth in higher education numbers over the last few years. Hartlepool Sixth Form College delivers provision franchised from the University of Sunderland, while Hartlepool College of FE works with both the University of Sunderland and the Teesside University. Hartlepool College of FE is also in the process of building a new state-of-the-art college on the existing town centre site. I look forward to the completion of this new college and welcome the contribution made by all three colleges in Hartlepool.

### Local Enterprise Zones: Hastings

**Amber Rudd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider the merits of designating Hastings as a borough eligible for the establishment of a local enterprise zone; and if he will make a statement. [3936]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* The former Enterprise Zone programme concluded in 2006, when the final Enterprise Zones reached the end of their designated period. The Government do believe that local authorities have a vital role in incentivising business growth, including in less prosperous areas. A White Paper this summer will set out proposals for growth, including the right framework of incentives.

### Post Offices

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 536W, on post offices, where each of the 48 Post Office Essential pilots is located. [4371]

**Mr Davey:** I have asked David Smith, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

**Stephen Gilbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria are being used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Post Office Essential pilots. [4372]

**Mr Davey:** I have asked David Smith, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

### Rolls Royce: Hucknall

**Gloria De Piero:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the management of Rolls Royce on its plans to outsource overseas the highly skilled sheet metal work jobs at its Hucknall Sheet Metal Work plant. [4272]

**Vince Cable:** I have had no discussions with the management of Rolls-Royce with regards to its plans at its Hucknall Sheet Metal Work plant.

### Sheffield Forgemasters: Loans

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) which private sector companies have made representations to his Department on the review of the loan proposal for Sheffield Forgemasters; [4128]

(2) what representations he has received from private sector companies in relation to the review of the proposed loan to Sheffield Forgemasters. [4776]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department has received one letter from a company chairman enquiring into the state aid position of the proposed loan. No further representations from private sector companies have been received by my Department during the review of the loan proposal for Sheffield Forgemasters.

### Summertime

**Charlie Elphicke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent consideration his Department has given to ending the application of British Summer Time. [4129]

**Mr Davey:** We are aware that there are a range of views on this subject. While the Government do not propose to change current arrangements, we continue to listen to representations we receive and consider any evidence presented to us.

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has set a timetable for reviewing the use of British Summer Time. [4400]

**Mr Davey:** The Government have no current plans to review the existing British Summer Time arrangements but will continue to listen to arguments for and against change.

### UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the target market countries of the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation *(a)* were in 2009-10 and *(b)* are in 2010-11. [4555]

**Mr Prisk:** The UKTI Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) priority markets in 2009/10 and in 2010/11 are listed as follows:

*UKTI DSO priority defence and security markets 2009/10*

Algeria
Australia
Brazil
Denmark
Greece
India
Iraq
Japan
Kuwait
Libya
Malaysia
Mexico
Oman
Saudi Arabia
South Africa
South Korea
Turkey
UAE
USA

*UKTI DSO priority defence and security markets 2010/11*

Algeria
Australia
Brazil
Brunei
India
Iraq
Japan
Kuwait
Libya
Malaysia
Mexico

Oman
Pakistan
South Korea
Saudi Arabia
Turkey
UAE
USA

### West Midlands

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much he expects to be saved consequent on reductions in spending on *(a)* his Department's programmes and *(b)* non-governmental organisations in the West Midlands for which his Department is responsible made in order to contribute to the £100 million reduction in expenditure set out by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 24 May 2010. [1449]

**Mr Davey:** Estimates of the regional impact of programme savings have not yet been made.

The £100 million saving equates to approximately 11% of the overall running costs for the Department and we are expecting that saving to be applied across BIS and its partner organisations in all regions. The precise allocation of savings to particular organisations is still being decided.

## EDUCATION

### Academies: Wigan

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in the metropolitan borough of Wigan *(a)* he has invited to apply for academy status and *(b)* have applied for academy status. [1754]

**Mr Gibb:** The Secretary of State for Education wrote to all schools inviting them to register their interest in becoming an academy. The letters are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/academies

No school in Wigan has yet applied for academy status.

### Building Schools for the Future Programme

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much capital funding was allocated to schools in South Thanet constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which information is available. [2688]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department does not keep schools capital allocation data on a constituency level basis. £26.6 million was allocated to Kent in the financial year 1996-97, and £147.9 million is the allocation for the financial year 2010-11 in current plans.

### Class Sizes: Thanet

**Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the teacher-pupil ratio is in each school in South Thanet constituency. [2687]

**Mr Gibb:** The following table provides the within school pupil:teacher ratios in publicly funded schools in South Thanet constituency in January 2009.

*Within-school pupil:teacher ratios in publicly funded schools[1], January 2009. Coverage: South Thanet constituency*

| | School unique reference number | Local authority number | Establishment number | Pupil:teacher ratio[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Academies* | | | | |
| The Marlowe Academy | 128,340 | 886 | 6,906 | 14.2 |
| *Primary schools* | | | | |
| Bromstone Primary School, Broadstairs | 118,534 | 886 | 2,603 | 20.4 |
| Callis Grange Nursery and Infant School | 118,406 | 886 | 2,329 | 28.7 |
| Cartwright and Kelsey Church of England Primary School | 118,745 | 886 | 3,351 | 21.3 |
| Chilton Primary School | 118,530 | 886 | 2,596 | 24.3 |
| Cliftonville Primary School | 118,542 | 886 | 2,617 | 20.8 |
| Dame Janet Community Infant School | 118,413 | 886 | 2,339 | 20.6 |
| Dame Janet Community Junior School | 118,412 | 886 | 2,338 | 20.3 |
| Ellington Infant School | 118,414 | 886 | 2,340 | 25.6 |
| Goodnestone Church of England Primary School | 118,686 | 886 | 3,168 | 18.0 |
| Newington Community Primary School | 135,214 | 886 | 3,918 | 18.4 |
| Newlands Primary School | 118,562 | 886 | 2,647 | 21.3 |
| Palm Bay Primary School | 118,583 | 886 | 2,672 | 23.9 |
| Preston Primary School | 118,401 | 886 | 2,322 | 20.3 |
| Priory Infant School | 118,416 | 886 | 2,345 | 22.5 |
| Ramsgate, Christ Church Church of England Junior School | 118,700 | 886 | 3,196 | 21.4 |
| Ramsgate, Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School | 118,751 | 886 | 3,364 | 25.4 |
| Sandwich Infant School | 118,547 | 886 | 2,626 | 20.0 |
| Sandwich Junior School | 118,548 | 886 | 2,627 | 21.3 |
| St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School | 118,764 | 886 | 3,722 | 20.4 |
| St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Broadstairs | 131,126 | 886 | 3,890 | 24.7 |

*Within-school pupil:teacher ratios in publicly funded schools[1], January 2009, Coverage: South Thanet constituency*

| | *School unique reference number* | *Local authority number* | *Establishment number* | *Pupil:teacher ratio*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| St Laurence In Thanet Church of England Junior School | 118,752 | 886 | 3,371 | 25.4 |
| St Mildred's Primary Infant School | 118,405 | 886 | 2,328 | 25.2 |
| St Peter-In-Thanet CofE Junior School | 118,750 | 886 | 3,360 | 24.0 |
| Upton Junior School | 118,489 | 886 | 2,523 | 22.9 |
| Wingham Primary School | 118,403 | 886 | 2,326 | 22.1 |
| Worth Primary School | 118,404 | 886 | 2,327 | 16.3 |
| *Constituency primary within School PTR* | | | | 22.2 |
| *Secondary schools* | | | | |
| Chatham House Grammar School for Boys | 118,934 | 886 | 5,462 | 17.5 |
| Clarendon House Grammar School | 118,809 | 886 | 4,118 | 15.3 |
| Dane Court Grammar School | 118,932 | 886 | 5,460 | 15.1 |
| Ellington School for Girls | 118,811 | 886 | 4,122 | 16.4 |
| Sandwich Technology School | 118,935 | 886 | 5,463 | 16.9 |
| Sir Roger Manwood's School | 118,900 | 886 | 5,428 | 14.9 |
| St George's Church of England Foundation School | 118,919 | 886 | 5,447 | 15.0 |
| The Charles Dickens School | 118,910 | 886 | 5,438 | 18.4 |
| The Hereson School | 118,812 | 886 | 4,123 | 16.0 |
| *Constituency secondary within School PTR* | | | | 16.1 |
| *Special schools* | | | | |
| Bradstow School[3] | 101,095 | 212 | 7,077 | 5.1 |
| Laleham Gap School | 134,971 | 886 | 7,073 | 6.1 |
| Stone Bay School | 119,056 | 886 | 7,058 | 6.9 |
| The Foreland School | 119,041 | 886 | 7,040 | 6.2 |
| *Constituency special within School PTR* | | | | 6.1 |

[1] Local authority maintained schools and academies. Special schools exclude non-maintained special schools.
[2] The within-school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed.
[3] Bradstow School, whilst situated geographically in the constituency, is maintained by Wandsworth local authority.
*Source:*
School Census.

## Departmental Official Hospitality

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what budget his Department has allocated for entertainment, including alcohol, in each of the next three years. [1315]

**Michael Gove:** The Department does not allocate a budget for the provision of entertainment or alcohol. All expenditure is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles set out in Treasury guidance "Managing Public Money".

As this is the last year of the spending review period CSR07, the Department does not have an allocated budget for the years 2011-12 and 2012-13.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the proposed further phase of the Children, Young People and Families grant programme to fund work by the third sector to improve educational outcomes will proceed. [2798]

**Tim Loughton:** Decisions on the funding priorities for the Department for Education including the future scope of the Children, Young People and Families grant programme from April 2011 are currently still under consideration. As soon as the Department is in a position to provide clarity, we will, of course, make a formal announcement.

## Departmental Publications

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* documents and *(b)* other information for which (i) his Department and (ii) its associated public bodies are responsible are published or provided in the UK in languages other than English; for what reason each such publication is required to be made available in a language or languages other than English; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the translation work so incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [1777]

**Michael Gove:** The information requested cannot be supplied without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Education: Finance

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate has been made of the likely reduction in the number of *(a)* jobs and *(b)* specific projects as a consequence of the reduction in his Department's area-based grants to Sheffield city council announced on 10 June 2010. [2661]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 16 June 2010]:* Local Government, like the rest of the public sector, is being asked to make a contribution to the £6.2 billion of cross-Government savings in 2010-11. This will enable the Government to take immediate action to tackle the UK's unprecedented deficit inherited from the previous Government Where revenue grants have been reduced, no local authority will face a reduction of more than 2%. Sheffield will see a reduction of 1% in their overall funding from Central Government in 2010-11. The Government have also announced further removal from ring fencing of central government revenue and capital grants. This gives councils extra flexibility to make decisions about where savings are found. It is for local authorities to manage the reduction across all their funding sources to protect frontline services. This flexibility means that reductions in spending could be managed without a reduction in jobs or frontline services.

### Eleven Plus: Dartford

**Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils in each primary school in Dartford constituency passed the 11 plus examination in each of the last five years. [3088]

**Mr Gibb:** This information is not held centrally.

### Free School Meals

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the funding of universal free school meals pilot due to begin in September 2010. [1222]

**Mr Gibb:** The Secretary of State's letter to the right hon. Member on 7 June, which is now in the Libraries of the House, confirms that we are committed to ensuring that the Department does not make unaffordable promises for the future, and that spending is focused on priorities that best support the coalition Government's two primary educational objectives—raising standards for all and narrowing the gap between rich and poor. Having examined the options in depth, the Secretary of State has decided that we will not be able to proceed with the free school meal pilots that were due to start in September this year, nor the extension of free school meals to some primary school children this year. We will continue the existing pilots in Durham, Newham and Wolverhampton so as to assess better the case for increasing eligibility in the future.

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to extend to students in further education institutions the free school meal scheme available to 16 to 19-year-olds studying in sixth forms. [3142]

**Mr Gibb:** There are no plans to extend free school meal eligibility to include students in further education institutions. Discretionary learner support funds are available to provide exceptional short-term financial support for eligible learners aged 16 to 18. This funding exists to respond to hardship needs that are preventing learners from engaging or completing their course.

### Free Schools

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what measures are in place to prevent *(a)* academy, *(b)* state and *(c)* state-funded independent schools from being (i) operated and (ii) managed by a group with a narrow or factional objective. [687]

**Mr Gibb:** Proprietors of academies and independent schools are subject to a vetting process at the initial application stage which examines whether they are a fit and proper person to run a school. This includes an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check and background suitability checks into the activities of the organisation/ individuals. Individuals may be prohibited from taking part in the management of an independent school on grounds relating to misconduct.

State-funded independent schools will be established as academies, and all proposals to establish such schools will be subject to similar rigorous checks. Generally, the Secretary of State would expect that all proposals will comply with all aspects of the rigorous suitability and vetting tests throughout the application process, including due diligence and CRB checks. He will reject any proposers who advocate violence, intolerance, hatred or whose ideology runs counter to the UK's democratic values. Where there are serious concerns about the quality of leadership and management provided by a governing body in maintained schools, local authorities currently have statutory powers to intervene in certain circumstances. These powers can include appointing additional governors to a school or applying to the Secretary of State for permission to replace the governing body with an interim executive board to lead the changes required in the school.

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many free schools his Department has made budgetary provision for in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [1217]

**Mr Gibb:** Future plans for all education funding depends on the spending review which has yet to be undertaken. These plans will include provision for the introduction of free schools. Details, including numbers, will be published as part of the spending settlement later this year.

### GCSE

**Tristram Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many GCSE A*-C grades or equivalents obtained by pupils at maintained schools other than academy schools in 2008-09 were for *(a)* academic GCSEs, *(b)* applied GCSEs and *(c)* other qualifications judged to be equivalent to A*-C grade at GCSE; [2784]

(2) what proportion of GCSE A*-C grades or equivalent obtained by pupils at academy schools in

2008-09 was for *(a)* an academic GCSE, *(b)* an applied GCSE and *(c)* another qualification judged to be equivalent to an A*-C GCSE; [2785]

(3) what percentage of key stage 4 examination entries in non-academy maintained schools in 2008-09 were for *(a)* academic GCSEs, *(b)* applied GCSEs and *(c)* other qualifications judged to be equivalent to A* to C grade at GCSE; [2794]

(4) what proportion of key stage 4 examination entries in academy schools in 2008-09 were for *(a)* academic GCSEs, *(b)* applied GCSEs and *(c)* other qualifications judged to be equivalent to A* to C at grade GCSE. [2795]

**Mr Gibb:** The information requested is presented in the following table:

*Entries and A*-C pass volumes of selected GCSE and equivalent qualifications by pupils at the end of key stage 4 in 2008/09 by school type*

| | *Volume[1] and proportion of entries—academic GCSEs[2]* | | *Volume and proportion of entries—applied GCSEs[3]* | | *Volume and proportion of entries—other qualifications equivalent to A*-C GCSE[4]* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Volume* | *Percentage* | *Volume* | *Percentage* | *Volume* | *Percentage* |
| Maintained schools other than academy schools—total A*-C passes | 2,932,390 | 73 | 122,361 | 3 | 980,232 | 24 |
| Academy schools—total A*-C passes | 71,424 | 49 | 3,909 | 3 | 69,513 | 48 |
| Maintained schools other than academy schools—total entries[5] | 4,411,371 | 78 | 219,762 | 4 | 992,289 | 18 |
| Academy schools—total entries[5] | 127,160 | 62 | 7,549 | 4 | 70,237 | 34 |

[1] Volume is expressed in terms of total GCSE-sized entries—for example a GCSE double award contributes two GCSEs to the overall volume and a short course contributes a half.

[2] Academic GCSEs include full, short course and double award GCSEs.

[3] Applied GCSEs include single and double awards.

[4] Other qualifications equivalent to an A*-C GCSE include level 2 qualifications that contribute to a school's five A*-C threshold in the Achievement and Attainment Tables such as BTEC/OCR certificates and diplomas, Basic/key/functional skills, Level 2 NVQs and VRQs. GCE/Applied AS levels taken by key stage 4 pupils are also included here.

[5] Entries in qualifications at level 1 and below (i.e. those that cannot achieve a pass equivalent to a grade A*-C) are not included in this answer.

**Tristram Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of key stage 4 examination entries in each school which was subsequently replaced by an academy school was for a GCSE, excluding applied GCSEs the last year before the school was replaced by an academy school. [2908]

**Mr Gibb:** The requested information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## GCSE: Doncaster

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children at schools in *(a)* Don Valley constituency and *(b)* Doncaster borough have obtained five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C in each year since 1997. [2742]

**Mr Gibb:** The number of pupils attending maintained schools in Don Valley constituency achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including equivalents in each year since 2004/05 is given in the following table. Data for years prior to 2004/05 can only be provided at a disproportionate cost. Figures showing the percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including equivalents for all constituencies between 2004/05 and 2008/09 have been placed in the House Libraries.

*Number of pupils achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent attending maintained schools in Don Valley parliamentary constituency 2004/05 to 2008/09[1,2]*

| | *Total number of pupils* | *Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004/05 | 1,412 | 609 |
| 2005/06 | 1,412 | 733 |
| 2006/07 | 1,474 | 877 |
| 2007/08 | 1,429 | 921 |
| 2008/09 | 1,383 | 943 |

[1] Pupils at the end of key stage 4

[2] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools including academies, city technology colleges and special schools located in Don Valley constituency.

*Source:*

National Pupil Database (Final data)

The number of pupils attending maintained schools in Doncaster borough achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including equivalents in each year since 1996/97 is given in the following table.

*Number of pupils attending maintained schools in Doncaster borough achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent 1996/97 to 2008/09[1,2,3]*

| | *Total number of pupils* | *Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent* |
|---|---|---|
| 1996/97 | 3,558 | 1,202 |
| 1997/98 | 3,562 | 1,213 |
| 1998/99 | 3,583 | 1,298 |
| 1999/2000 | 3,570 | 1,315 |
| 2000/01 | 3,686 | 1,471 |
| 2001/02 | 3,782 | 1,496 |
| 2002/03 | 3,801 | 1,529 |

*Number of pupils attending maintained schools in Doncaster borough achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent 1996/97 to 2008/09*[1,2,3]

| | *Total number of pupils* | *Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003/04 | 3,780 | 1,550 |
| 2004/05 | 3,795 | 1,696 |
| 2005/06 | 3,847 | 1,998 |
| 2006/07 | 3,848 | 2,225 |
| 2007/08 | 3,800 | 2,408 |
| 2008/09 | 3,681 | 2,658 |

[1] From 1997/98 includes GNVQ equivalences and from 2003/04 other equivalences approved for use pre-16.

[2] Figures for 2004/05 onwards are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4. Data for previous years are based on pupils aged 15-years-old at the start of the academic year.

[3] Includes pupils attending all maintained schools including academies, city technology colleges and special schools. Includes those schools maintained by Doncaster local authority.

*Source:*

School Achievement and Attainment Tables (final data)

## Home Education

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* financial provision and *(b)* other assistance local education authorities are required to offer to home-educated children and young people for them to take public examinations. [3623]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]*: Local authorities are not required to offer any financial or other assistance to home-educated children and young people to enable them to take public examinations, although they have the discretion to do so. Under current arrangements home educators take on the full financial responsibility for educating their children, including the costs of public examinations.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what support local education authorities are required to offer to home-educated children and young people with special educational needs who *(a)* have a statement and *(b)* do not have a statement. [3624]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]*: Under current legislation local authorities are not required to support home-educated children with special educational needs. Under the Education Act 1996, local authorities have the power to provide support to the parents of home educated children with special educational needs, whether statemented or not, if they wish to do so.

For home-educated children with statements of special educational need, local authorities have a duty to assure themselves that the provision being made by the parents is suitable to the child's special educational needs. Local authorities must also review those statements at least annually to ensure the provision continues to be appropriate.

## Non-teaching Staff

**Mr Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of lessons that were supervised by unqualified non-teaching staff in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [3427]

**Tim Loughton:** The information requested is not held centrally.

## Pupils: Disadvantaged

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Hampstead and Kilburn constituency will receive the pupil premium; and what amount the premium will be in each case. [3620]

**Mr Gibb:** The Government are committed to the introduction of a pupil premium for disadvantaged children, and we will bring forward our proposals in due course.

## Pupils: Sikhs

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has had discussions with Ministerial colleagues on Government policy on the carrying of kirpans in schools; and if he will make a statement. [2960]

**Mr Gibb:** The Department is liaising with the Home Office, the Sikh community and the Equality and Human Rights Commission on pupils carrying a kirpan in school. We aim to achieve a consensus which will help schools to resolve any doubts they may have about the law and agreed practice.

## Schools: Admissions

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will provide assistance to children and young people who wish to attend schools outside their local authority areas. [1311]

**Mr Gibb:** For children of compulsory school age whose nearest suitable school is beyond the statutory walking distances of two miles for pupils below the age of eight and three miles for those aged eight and over, local authorities are required to make arrangements for free transport, regardless of whether the school is in another local authority.

## Schools: Doncaster

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many maintained schools in *(a)* Don Valley and *(b)* the Doncaster borough council area were rebuilt or refurbished between 1997 and 2010; [2747]

(2) what plans he has to rebuild and refurbish secondary schools in *(a)* Don Valley and *(b)* the Doncaster borough council area. [2748]

**Mr Gibb:** Data received from Doncaster council show that in Don Valley between 1997 and 2010, two schools had entirely new school buildings, one school had 80% or more of its floor area refurbished, and seven schools had between 50% and 80% of their floor area refurbished. In the borough of Doncaster between 1997 and 2010, eight schools had entirely new school buildings, six schools had 80% or more of their floor area refurbished, and 30 schools had between 50% and 80% of their floor area refurbished. In addition, some schools had smaller scale projects, but the numbers cannot be determined from the data.

The Department is currently reviewing the Building Schools for the Future programme to ensure that we can build schools more effectively and more cost-efficiently in the future.

### Schools: Standards

**Ed Balls:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools previously judged outstanding by Ofsted received subsequent inspection ratings of (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) satisfactory and (iv) inadequate in the latest period for which figures are available; [1213]

(2) what proportion of pupils in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools rated as outstanding by Ofsted are (i) eligible for free school meals, (ii) looked-after children and (iii) have a special educational need. [1214]

**Mr Gibb:** These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Libraries.

### Secondary Education: Admissions

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many parents in the Kirklees local authority area appealed against the decision on their child's secondary school place in each of the last five years; how many of those appeals were upheld; and if he will make a statement. [2504]

**Mr Gibb:** The available information is shown in the table.

*Appeals by parents against non-admission of their children to local authority maintained secondary schools, 2004/05 to 2008/09, Kirklees local authority*

| | | Number of appeals[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of school admissions September to January* | *Lodged* | *Heard* | *In parent's favour* |
| 2004/05 | 6,134 | 492 | 300 | 122 |
| 2005/06 | 6,167 | 420 | 267 | 113 |
| 2006/07 | 6,209 | 383 | 252 | 151 |
| 2007/08 | 6,117 | 440 | 282 | 111 |
| 2008/09 | 6,158 | 409 | 271 | 95 |

[1] Some appeals are resolved before they reach a panel hearing (a place at an alternative school is accepted after an appeal has been lodged; the same parent can lodge appeals for more than one school but will not pursue them all).

*Note:*

The latest information was published in the Statistical First Release 'Admissions Appeals for Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools in England, 2008/09' and can be found at: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000934/index.shtml

*Source:*

Admission Appeals Survey and School Census.

### Special Educational Needs

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps the Government plans to take to maintain and strengthen the role of special schools. [3513]

**Sarah Teather:** We will reform the school system so that children with special educational needs and disabilities get the best possible support. We will halt the unnecessary closure of special schools, improve diagnostic assessment for schoolchildren, and remove the bias towards inclusion. We have introduced legislation to make it possible, for the first time, for special schools to become academies. We are committed to offering special schools the additional freedoms that we are giving mainstream schools.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Drugs

20. **Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the level of illegal drug use in England. [4239]

**James Brokenshire:** Levels of illegal drug use among adults aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales are measured using the British crime survey. The latest figures for 2008-09 show that:

10.1% had used an illicit drug in the last year; and

3.7% of adults had used a Class A drug in the last year.

The smoking, drinking and drug use survey provides measures of drug use among 11 to 15-year-olds in England. The latest figures for 2008 show that 15% of pupils reported taking drugs in the last year.

### Defendant Anonymity: Rape Trials

21. **Kate Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with police forces on the implications for them of the Government's proposals to extend anonymity to defendants in rape trials. [4240]

**Lynne Featherstone:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department has had a number of discussion with her Cabinet colleague, the Secretary of State for Justice. We have made it clear that we will progress out commitment on this subject with the care it merits. Our consideration of the options will of course include a full examination of any impact on police investigations.

## CCTV

23. **Steve McCabe:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to regulate the use of CCTV in public places; and if she will make a statement. [4242]

**James Brokenshire:** In our coalition programme for government, as part of our work around safeguarding civil liberties, we have stated that we will further regulate CCTV. We will bring forward detailed proposals in due course.

## Administration: Police Time

**Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the amount of time spent on administrative tasks by police officers each year. [4241]

**Nick Herbert:** When I have spoken to police officers, they have asked us to help free them up to do the job that they are paid to do. I am committed to returning common sense to policing, which means getting officers back onto the streets, dealing with crime, and not sitting behind desks filling out forms, to meet targets.

## Deportation

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU citizens have been deported for reasons other than criminal activity in the last 12 months. [4243]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency does not deport EU citizens for reasons other than criminal convictions or proceedings.

In the last 12 months 14 EU citizens have been removed through the process of administrative removal.

## Anti-Slavery Day

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions her Department has had on setting the date for an Anti-Slavery Day under the Anti-Slavery Day Act 2010. [4260]

**Damian Green:** The Government will be bringing forward proposals shortly for an Anti-Slavery Day.

## Antisocial Behaviour: Crime Prevention

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what representations she has received from Mr Howard Stapleton on the legality of the ultrasonic antisocial behaviour deterrent device, Mosquito; and if she will make a statement; [4089]

(2) if she will ask the Health and Safety Executive to investigate the effects of the ultrasonic antisocial behaviour deterrent device, Mosquito; [4090]

(3) if she will assess the Council of Europe's report, prohibiting the marketing and use of the Mosquito youth dispersal device with regard to her responsibilities for the prevention of crime; if she will bring forward proposals in line with the report's recommendations to prohibit the device; and if she will make a statement; [4091]

(4) whether her Department has issued guidance to police and local authorities on the use of the ultrasonic anti-social behaviour deterrent device, Mosquito. [4092]

**Nick Herbert:** I have not received any representations from Mr Stapleton about the Mosquito. I have no plans to investigate the effects of the device. In relation to the Council of Europe report and the issue of guidance, our stance is that we do not see this as an issue on which we should intervene.

We believe that it is for local agencies dealing with antisocial behaviour to decide whether or not to use the devices and to use them according to the manufacturer's instructions. The UK Health and Safety Executive has concluded that based on the information and evidence available, while some short-term subjective effects are possible with prolonged exposure, there would appear to be little likelihood of people exposed to this device suffering long-term ill health.

If citizens wish to complain about use of the devices they may contact their local environmental health officer. There is legislation available which can be used against statutory noise nuisance. To date we know of no such complaints being made.

Of course, should evidence be produced that these devices are harmful to hearing or health in the longer term we would reconsider our position.

## Asylum: Scotland

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements have been made for the transit of asylum seekers in Scotland to Yarl's Wood to await deportation; and what assessment she has made of arrangements for the safety and well-being of the children being transported. [4166]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency takes health and emotional well-being of those in its care very seriously; this is particularly true of children who are regrettably detained—with their parents—pending their removal after they refuse to leave the UK voluntarily. A new duty was introduced in November 2009, contained in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, which requires the agency to protect and promote the welfare of children. The Office of the Children's Champion, which includes professional advisers, is responsible for challenging the agency to ensure it meets its obligations, and they provide advice and support to those responsible for detention and escorting matters.

Prior to any transfer to Yarl's Wood, a number of assessments are made to take specific account of the safeguarding and welfare of adults and family members making the journey. These include:

The size of vehicle required to accommodate the whole family together;

The length of the journey to ensure adequate comfort breaks, suitable child activity packs, dietary requirements and refreshments;

Appropriate clothing for the weather;

Feeding and changing facilities for babies and any requirement for child safety chairs and booster seats.

Yarl's Wood is provided with all health records, welfare assessments and care plans, documenting any special needs or support in place for the family to ensure continuity of care.

On arrival at the receiving centre all adults and children are individually re-assessed by a nurse within two hours and an appointment made for them to see a GP the following day. In line with the Centre's safeguarding arrangements the children continue to have their welfare monitored and assessed on a regular basis by the multi-disciplinary team of health care, educational, operational and other staff, together with the resident senior social worker.

### Children: Abuse

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received on the examination of a six-year old child in the adult sexual assault referral centre in Liverpool on 28 March 2010; and if she will make a statement. [4133]

**James Brokenshire** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* I have been provided with briefing on this case. I understand local agencies are investigating the background to this incident.

Sexual assault referral centres are highly skilled one-stop locations where victims of recent sexual assault can receive medical care and counselling quickly and empathetically, and which allow for the collection of forensic evidence for potential prosecutions. They provide services that are tailored to the needs of victims and underpinned by principles of dignity, respect and belief.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 sets out the PCT role in commissioning sexual assault referral services which comply with the standards for paediatric forensic medical services—'Service Specification for the Clinical Evaluation of Children and Young People who may have been sexually abused'—published by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, 2009.

### Counter-terrorism: Birmingham

**Mr Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many CCTV cameras have been installed in Birmingham, Hall Green constituency under Project Champion. [3806]

**James Brokenshire:** The numbers of both ANPR and CCTV cameras installed under Project Champion is set out in the table:

| *Ward* | *ANPR cameras* | *CCTV cameras* |
|---|---|---|
| Hall Green | 2 | 1 |
| Moseley and Kings Heath | 18 | 0 |
| Sparkbrook | 33 | 9 |

### Crime

**Richard Harrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to maintain public confidence in Government crime statistics. [2080]

**Nick Herbert:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 145W.

### Departmental Manpower

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers are employed by her Department; and at what civil service pay grade in each such case. [1258]

**Nick Herbert:** The Home Office is allocated two special advisers who are appointed in accordance with article 3(2) of the Civil Service Order in Council 1995 (as amended). Information on the Home Office special advisers was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 32-34WS.

The total number of press officers is given in the table. The total includes those employed to cover core Home Office business, such as counter-terrorism, policing, crime, passports and immigration policy, as well as the press officers located across the country who cover operational immigration and border security issues.

*Press officers employed by the Home Office*

| *Pay grade* | *Full-time equivalent* |
|---|---|
| SIO | 11.89 |
| IO | 35 |
| AIO | 2 |
| Total | 48.89 |

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Government *(a)* cars and *(b)* drivers are allocated to Ministers in her Department. [298]

**Nick Herbert:** Under the last Government, five Government cars and five drivers from the Government car service were allocated to departmental Ministers. The Home Secretary had a car allocated by the Metropolitan police service.

The new ministerial code, published on 21 May 2010, contains changes that affect ministerial entitlement to travel by Government car service. Paragraph 10.13 states that:

> "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed".

The Department for Transport and its Government Car and Despatch Agency are working with Departments to effect the transition to the new arrangements.

Contracts have been terminated and are due to expire in August. As a result, no Home Office Ministers will be allocated Government cars and drivers from the GCS. The Home Secretary has a vehicle allocated to her by the MPS for security reasons.

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* make, *(b)* model and *(c)* place of manufacture is of the car allocated for the use of each Minister in her Department. [1484]

**Nick Herbert:** Under the last Government, five Government cars and five drivers from the Government car service were allocated to Home Office Ministers.

The Home Secretary had a car allocated by the Metropolitan Police Service.

The Prime Minister published the Ministerial Code on 21 May 2010. Paragraph 10.13 of the code states:

> "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed."

Contracts have been terminated and are due to expire in August. As a result, no Home Office Ministers will have allocated Government cars and drivers from the GCS. The Home Secretary has a vehicle allocated to her by the MPS for security reasons.

### DNA: Databases

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanism she plans to use to assess which DNA samples held on the DNA database belonging to those who were arrested but not convicted of a serious crime should remain on the database after three years; and what costs are to be taken into account as part of that assessment. [4135]

**Mrs May** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]*: As part of the development of a DNA retention model that provides the protections of the Scottish model, we are examining a range of options before bringing forward detailed proposals to put in place a system which provides protection to the public while respecting the rights of those who have been arrested for but not convicted of an offence.

Costs will be taken into consideration as part of the policy development process.

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence she has *(a)* received and *(b)* commissioned on the merits of retaining DNA evidence for (i) three years and (ii) six years. [4136]

**Mrs May** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]*: I have not received any new evidence on the merits of retaining DNA evidence for three and six years. I have asked my officials to consider the feasibility of undertaking further analysis in this area. The Government are committed to adopting the protections of the Scottish model for the DNA database and will bring forward its proposals in due course.

### Immigrants: English Language

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether migrants are to have the right to appeal against the result of an English language test. [4182]

**Damian Green:** From autumn 2010, those seeking entry to the UK as the spouse or civil partner, fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or someone who is present and settled in the UK will need to provide evidence that they have passed an acceptable English test with one of the UK Border Agency's approved test providers. Appeals against individual English language test results will be a matter for the appeals procedure of the test provider.

The UK Border Agency has an established procedure for appeals against a decision to refuse leave to enter the UK under the immigration rules.

### Immigration Controls

**Mrs Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to meet representatives of the British curry industry to discuss the effects of the points-based immigration system on recruitment to the industry. [4257]

**Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency works with the restaurant and hospitality sector which is represented on the UK Border Agency's employers task force by the British Hospitality Association (BHA).

We welcome views on how our proposed limit on economic migration should operate in a way that is fair and practical for users of the system. Representatives in the curry industry can respond via our consultation, which was launched on 28 June.

### Immigration Tribunals and Appeals

**Richard Harrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to the Exchequer of *(a)* immigration tribunals and appeals and *(b)* reports compiled by country experts and medical experts was in the latest period for which figures are available. [3274]

**Mr Djanogly:** I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice incurs expenditure in the cost of running the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT), which moved into the two-tier Tribunals Service structure on 15 February 2010 to become the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber), and for the provision of legal aid.

The running cost of the AIT was £117 million in 2009-10.

The total cost of legal aid for immigration and asylum for 2009-10 was £90 million. This includes all legal advice and representation for immigration and asylum matters. It is not possible to disaggregate from this figure the amounts spent on work before the immigration tribunal from other work such as initial advice. While legal aid providers may commission experts and medical experts to provide reports it is not possible to identify how much was paid as the cost of these reports form part of providers' overall disbursement.

### Internet: Children

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to ensure that children do not have access to age-restricted products and material on the internet. [4197]

**James Brokenshire:** The Government believe that those selling age-restricted goods should uphold the law on the sale of such items online as they do offline.

The Government will consider whether further action is required in due course.

### Methadone

**Andrew Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people arrested in each year since 1997 who were methadone users. [3255]

**James Brokenshire:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office does not include information on the drug misuse of persons arrested.

### Nottinghamshire Police

**Gloria De Piero:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the conclusions of the report by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary into Nottinghamshire constabulary; and what steps she plans to take to ensure the effectiveness of that constabulary. [4143]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* Monitoring and challenging police performance is the responsibility of (HMIC). Performance in Nottinghamshire police authority and force is currently being monitored and challenged by HMIC to ensure that performance is improved following the publication of the capability review in March 2010.

### Police Authorities: Pay

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the level of transparency of the mechanisms by which police authorities publish details of the remuneration of authority members. [3437]

**Nick Herbert** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* No. Police authorities must publish the arrangements they have in place for the expenses and allowances of their members. Police authorities are to be replaced with directly elected individuals—the Government are determined to ensure that local democratic accountability in policing replaces the bureaucratic accountability of the past.

### Police: Administration

**Richard Harrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the amount of time spent by police officers on administrative tasks each year. [4023]

**Nick Herbert:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 149W.

### Police: Business Interests

**Mr MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will instruct chief constables to publish a list of any other employment undertaken by serving police officers in each police force. [3871]

**Nick Herbert:** The decision to publish information of this kind is a matter for police forces.

### Police: Mobile IT

**Caroline Dinenage:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the changes in *(a)* officer visibility and *(b)* time taken to complete administrative tasks resulting from the pilot of mobile information technology devices issued to members of the Hampshire constabulary. [3047]

**Nick Herbert:** There have been no representations made to the Secretary of State on the changes in *(a)* visibility and *(b)* administrative tasks resulting from the pilot of mobile information technology devices issued to members of Hampshire constabulary.

In autumn 2009 Hampshire constabulary equipped more than 300 police officers with mobile information technology devices. Work is ongoing to evaluate the impact mobile data is having on improvements in policing and service to the public.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question *(a)* 228, on departmental official vehicles and *(b)* 392, on departmental electronic equipment, tabled on 25 May 2010. [3848]

**Nick Herbert:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 226W and 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 145W.

### Zakir Abdul-Karim Naik

**Mr Ward:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason she has prohibited Dr Zakir Abdul-Karim Naik from entering the UK. [4234]

**Damian Green:** The Home Secretary excluded Dr Naik because she considered that his presence in the UK would not be conducive to the public good. A number of statements made by Dr Naik justifying terrorism and fostering hatred are evidence of his unacceptable behaviour.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Average Earnings: Redcar

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the most recent estimate is of the number of people in Redcar constituency who earn less than £7,450 per annum. [4381]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the number of people in Redcar constituency who earn less than £7,450 per annum. (4381)

Annual levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

ASHE methodology cannot be used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose earnings are less than a specific amount, but can be used to provide an estimate of the percentage of employees in that category. Unfortunately, because of small sample sizes, ONS is unable to produce a statistically reliable estimate for the percentage of employees in Redcar constituency who earn less than £7,450 per annum.

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average individual annual income was in Redcar constituency in each of the last five years. [4589]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average individual annual income was in Redcar constituency in each of the last five years. (4589).

Table 1 shows the estimated average net annual equivalised household income in Redcar parliamentary constituency, both before and after housing costs, in 2007/08, the latest year for which data are available and for 2004/05, the year previous to 2007/08 for which data are available. Incomes are presented net of income tax payments, National Insurance contributions and Council tax. The incomes are equivalised to take account of each household's size and composition, in recognition of how these affect their standard of living. Data for individuals are not available.

The estimates provided are based on small area statistics published by the ONS. They are classed as experimental statistics which means they have been developed in accordance with the principles set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice but have yet to be fully accredited as National Statistics.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Table 1: Average net annual equivalised household income in Redcar parliamentary constituency, 2004-05 and 2007-08*[1, 2, 3, 4]

*£ per year*

| | *Mean income (before housing costs)*[5] | *Mean income (after housing costs)*[5] |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 18,100 | 16,300 |
| 2007-08 | 20,100 | 17,500 |

[1] Incomes are presented net of income tax payments, National Insurance contributions and Council tax.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest £100.

[3] Data for both years are based on the 2010 parliamentary constituency boundaries.

[4] Data are presented in current prices (unadjusted for the effects of inflation).

[5] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics

## Average Earnings: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average income of an individual was in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [4359]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average income of an individual was in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years (4359).

Table 1 shows the estimated average net weekly equivalised household income in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber, both before and after housing costs, in 2007/08, the latest year for which data are available and for 2004/05, the year previous to 2007/08 for which data are available. Incomes are presented net of income tax payments, National Insurance contributions and Council tax. The incomes are equivalised to take account of each household's size and composition, in recognition of how these affect their standard of living. Data for individuals are not available.

The estimates provided are based on small area statistics published by the ONS. They are classed as experimental statistics which means they have been developed in accordance with the principles set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice but have yet to be fully accredited as National Statistics.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Table 1: Average net weekly equivalised household income in the parliamentary constituency areas of Yorkshire and the Humber, 2004-05 and 2007-08*[1, 2, 3, 4]

*£ per week*

| | *2004-05* | | *2007-08* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Mean income (before housing costs)*[5] | *Mean income (after housing costs)*[5] | *Mean income (before housing costs)*[5] | *Mean income (after housing costs)*[5] |
| Barnsley Central | 350 | 310 | 410 | 370 |
| Barnsley East | 330 | 290 | 390 | 350 |
| Batley and Spen | 370 | 340 | 400 | 360 |
| Beverley and Holderness | 410 | 380 | 460 | 430 |
| Bradford East | 320 | 290 | 340 | 300 |
| Bradford South | 360 | 320 | 390 | 340 |
| Bradford West | 330 | 300 | 360 | 310 |
| Brigg and Goole | 370 | 340 | 430 | 390 |
| Calder Valley | 420 | 380 | 450 | 400 |
| Cleethorpes | 360 | 340 | 420 | 380 |
| Colne Valley | 420 | 380 | 450 | 400 |
| Dewsbury | 400 | 360 | 430 | 380 |
| Don Valley | 360 | 340 | 420 | 380 |
| Doncaster Central | 340 | 310 | 400 | 350 |

*Table 1: Average net weekly equivalised household income in the parliamentary constituency areas of Yorkshire and the Humber, 2004-05 and 2007-08*[1, 2, 3, 4]

*£ per week*

| | *2004-05* | | *2007-08* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Mean income (before housing costs)*[5] | *Mean income (after housing costs)*[5] | *Mean income (before housing costs)*[5] | *Mean income (after housing costs)*[5] |
| Doncaster North | 340 | 300 | 390 | 350 |
| East Yorkshire | 370 | 350 | 430 | 390 |
| Elmet and Rothwell | 440 | 400 | 510 | 450 |
| Great Grimsby | 340 | 310 | 380 | 330 |
| Halifax | 370 | 340 | 400 | 360 |
| Haltemprice and Howden | 420 | 390 | 480 | 450 |
| Harrogate and Knaresborough | 460 | 430 | 530 | 460 |
| Hemsworth | 370 | 330 | 430 | 380 |
| Huddersfield | 370 | 320 | 390 | 340 |
| Keighley | 410 | 380 | 450 | 400 |
| Kingston upon Hull East | 340 | 300 | 370 | 330 |
| Kingston upon Hull North | 340 | 290 | 370 | 320 |
| Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle | 350 | 320 | 380 | 340 |
| Leeds Central | 330 | 270 | 380 | 300 |
| Leeds East | 350 | 310 | 390 | 340 |
| Leeds North East | 450 | 410 | 480 | 420 |
| Leeds North West | 440 | 390 | 500 | 410 |
| Leeds West | 370 | 320 | 410 | 340 |
| Morley and Outwood | 400 | 360 | 450 | 400 |
| Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford | 340 | 310 | 410 | 360 |
| Penistone and Stocksbridge | 400 | 360 | 450 | 420 |
| Pudsey | 440 | 400 | 480 | 440 |
| Richmond (Yorks) | 430 | 390 | 480 | 430 |
| Rother Valley | 380 | 340 | 440 | 390 |
| Rotherham | 330 | 290 | 390 | 340 |
| Scarborough and Whitby | 360 | 340 | 420 | 370 |
| Scunthorpe | 350 | 320 | 410 | 350 |
| Selby and Ainsty | 420 | 390 | 480 | 430 |
| Sheffield Central | 370 | 310 | 420 | 340 |
| Sheffield South East | 360 | 320 | 400 | 370 |
| Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough | 330 | 280 | 360 | 320 |
| Sheffield. Hallam | 500 | 470 | 560 | 500 |
| Sheffield, Heeley | 350 | 320 | 400 | 360 |
| Shipley | 450 | 420 | 500 | 450 |
| Skipton and Ripon | 420 | 390 | 480 | 440 |
| Thirsk and Walton | 390 | 370 | 460 | 410 |
| Wakefield | 380 | 340 | 440 | 380 |
| Wentworth and Dearne | 330 | 300 | 400 | 350 |
| York Central | 400 | 360 | 460 | 380 |
| York Outer | 430 | 400 | 510 | 440 |

[1] Incomes are presented net of income tax payments. national insurance contributions and council tax.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest £10.

[3] Data for both years are according to the 2010 parliamentary constituency boundaries, based on data by middle layer super output area.

[4] Data are presented in current prices (unadjusted tor the effects of inflation).

[5] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics.

## Business: Essex

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses employ fewer than 50 people in each local authority area in the ceremonial county of Essex. [3603]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many businesses employ fewer than 50 people in each local authority area in ceremonial Essex. [3603]

Annual statistics on business counts are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The attached table contains data from 2009 and shows the count of VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises between 0 and 50 employees in each local authority for the County of Essex.

*Count of VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises between 0 and 50 employees in each local authority for County of Essex*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Essex county | 52,465 |
| Basildon | 5,360 |
| Braintree | 5,945 |
| Brentwood | 3,290 |
| Castle Point | 2,735 |
| Chelmsford | 6,115 |
| Colchester | 6,010 |
| Epping Forest | 6,135 |
| Harlow | 2,095 |
| Maldon | 3,115 |
| Rochford | 3,015 |
| Tendring | 4,050 |
| Uttlesford | 4,600 |

### Business: Witham

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small and medium-sized businesses were operating in Witham constituency in each year since 1997. [3753]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small and medium-sized businesses were operating in Witham constituency in each year since 1997. [3753]

Annual statistics on business counts are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at www.statistics.gov.uk. Data are only from 2004 to 2009 and are for the ward areas that cover the new constituency of Witham, by employee size.

*Count of VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises for the area that covers the new constituency of Witham*

| | Employee size | |
|---|---|---|
| | 0-49 | 50-249 |
| 2004 | 3,475 | 55 |
| 2005 | 3,545 | 55 |
| 2006 | 3,540 | 65 |
| 2007 | 3,650 | 60 |
| 2008 | 3,740 | 55 |
| 2009 | 3,735 | 55 |

### Citizens' Advice Bureaux

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring forward proposals to strengthen the role of citizens advice bureaux as part of the Government's programme for a big society. [3510]

**Mr Hurd:** The citizens advice bureaux play a vital role in providing free, impartial and independent advice.

It would be for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to consider any review of the role of citizens advice bureaux through their responsibility for promoting and sponsoring the citizens advice service on behalf of all Government Departments.

Members can claim reasonable travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of the work in line with the appropriate Cabinet Office rules on financial expenditure.

### Civil Servants: Recruitment

**Dr Pugh:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he has taken to improve the efficiency of Government recruitment processes following publication of the National Audit Office report on Recruiting Civil Servants Effectively in February 2009; and if he will make a statement. [4340]

**Mr Maude:** The Government are driving down the cost of recruitment across the civil service. In May 2010 we announced a recruitment freeze, restrictions to advertising spend on recruitment campaigns and a requirement that all central Government vacancies be advertised online.

In addition, the Government are progressing a range of initiatives to improve efficiencies in recruitment processes across central Government. The Next Generation HR programme is designed to standardise processes, and remove cost and time from the recruitment process.

### Community Work

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what arrangements he plans to make for trials of the Government's new community organisers scheme; and if he will make a statement. [3990]

**Mr Hurd:** The 'Communities Organisers' programme is currently being developed by the Cabinet Office and Communities and Local Government. This programme will train 5,000 Community Organisers over the lifetime of this Parliament. They will act as local catalysts, mobilisers and enablers to help galvanise change where the local community wants change. There are currently no plans for a trial.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of proposed reductions in numbers of non-frontline staff in his Department and its agencies. [483]

**Mr Maude:** No cost estimate has been produced at this stage. The detailed allocation of the Cabinet Office's share of the £6 billion savings is still being finalised.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible; what remuneration is given ~~to (a)~~ the chair and *(b)* members of each such body; ~~and at~~ what rate expenses under each category are paid in respect of the chair and members of each body. [3303]

**Mr Maude:** As at 31 May 2010, the Cabinet Office was responsible for nine advisory non-departmental public bodies and two executive bodies.

The remuneration for the chair and members as agreed by the previous government are listed below:

| *Name of NDPB* | *Remuneration for chair* | *Remuneration for member* |
|---|---|---|
| *Executive NDPBs* | | |
| Capacitybuilders | £18,000 per annum | [1] |
| Commission for the Compact | £45,000 per annum | £257.56 per day |
| *Advisory NDPBs* | | |
| Advisory Committee on Business Appointments | £0 | £0 |
| Civil Service Appeal Board | £390 per day | Deputy Chair £370 per day. Other members £190 per day (plus £47.50 preparation fee for each case prepared) |
| Committee on Standards in Public Life | £50,000 per annum | £240 per day |
| House of Lords Appointments Commission | £8,000 per annum | £3,000 per annum |
| Main Honours Advisory Committee | £0 | £0 |
| Office for the Civil Society Advisory Body | £12,500 per annum | £250 per day |
| Security Commission | £0 | £282 per day |
| Security Vetting Appeals Panel | £785 per day | Deputy (x 1) £785 per day; Deputy Chair (x 2) unpaid (serving members of judiciary) |
| Senior Salaries Review Body | £350 per day | £300 per day |

[1] The latest figures for remuneration of board members for Capacitybuilders are for 2008-09 and are published in their annual report. This can be found at: www.capacitybuilders.[illegible].uk

Members can claim reasonable travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of the work in line with the appropriate Cabinet Office rules on financial expenditure.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Government *(a)* cars and *(b)* drivers are allocated to Ministers in his Department. [287]

**Mr Maude:** The current interim arrangements for the Cabinet Office are three allocated cars and drivers. The three contracts have been cancelled and are currently within the cancellation notice period. In addition, Ministers may have the use of pool cars. I personally use my bicycle as much as I can.

The new ministerial code, published on 21 May 2010, contains changes that affect ministerial entitlement to travel by Government car. It states that

> "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed."

The Department for Transport and its Government Car and Despatch Agency are working with Departments to effect the transition to the new arrangements.

The ministerial code, published on 21 May 2010, is available on the Cabinet Office website, and in the Libraries of the House.

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Government *(a)* cars and *(b)* drivers are allocated to Ministers in the Leader of the House's Office. [4547]

**Mr Maude:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many contracts between his Department and with its suppliers in respect of *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* the Office of the Leader of the House and *(c)* the Prime Minister's Office are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review. [3651]

**Mr Maude:** The Prime Minister's Office and the Office of the Leader of the House are integral parts of the Cabinet Office.

The Efficiency and Reform Group within the Cabinet Office is leading on the review and re-negotiation of Government contracts across all Government Departments. The review will identify priority contracts for re-negotiation.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* the Prime Minister's office, *(c)* the Deputy Prime Minister's office and *(d)* the Office of the Leader of the House as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3673]

**Mr Maude:** The Prime Minister's Office, the Deputy Prime Minister's Office and the Office of the Leader of the House are integral parts of the Cabinet Office.

The Department's contracts form part of the work on the re-negotiation of Government contracts being led by the Efficiency and Reform Group within the Cabinet Office, with the support of officials in other Departments. This work is ongoing and the savings that will accrue have yet to be determined.

Information on the numbers of officials engaged in this exercise and the expenditure that will be incurred is not readily available and cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Redundancy Pay

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost to his Department of redundancy payments for *(a)* front line and *(b)* other staff employed by (i) his Department and (ii) its agency. [629]

**Mr Maude:** No front line or other staff have been made redundant and consequently there are no redundancy costs at this time.

## Departmental Statistics

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department takes to ensure that the statistics it publishes comply with the provisions of the code of practice for official statistics; and if he will make a statement. [4094]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office does not currently produce any official statistics.

## Electoral Register: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of *(a)* the size of the adult population and *(b)* the number of persons registered to vote resident in the (i) metropolitan borough of Tameside and (ii) metropolitan borough of Stockport. [4659]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of (a) the size of the adult population and (b) the number of persons registered to vote resident in the (i) Metropolitan Borough of Tameside and (ii) Metropolitan Borough of Stockport (4659).

The table shows (a) the mid-2009 estimated resident population aged 18 and over for the Metropolitan Boroughs of Tameside and Stockport, and (b) the number of people registered to vote in local government elections as at 1 December 2009, resident in Tameside and Stockport. These figures are the latest available.

The resident population includes people resident in an area who are not eligible to vote and the period of eligibility for residency used for the mid-year estimated population is different to that used for the registered local electorate. These factors affect the comparability of figures between data sources.

*Estimated mid-year population and persons registered to vote, 2009*

| *Metropolitan boroughs* | *Number of people registered to vote 1 December 2009* | *Resident[1] population aged 18+ mid-2009* |
|---|---|---|
| Stockport | 220,112 | 224,000 |
| Tameside | 166,529 | 167,000 |

[1] Population estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand.

*Source:*

Office for National Statistics.

## Employment: Witham

**Priti Patel:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of people in Witham constituency were employed by small and medium-sized enterprises in each year since 1997; and what the equivalent figures were nationally in each such year. [3754]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many and what proportion of people in the area covered by Witham constituency were employed by small and medium-sized enterprises in each year since 1997; and what the equivalent figures were nationally in each such year. (3754)

The table shows the number of employees within the size-band 0-10 employees and the number of employees within the size-band 11-200 employees for 1998 to 2008. Figures for 1997 are not available and for Witham figures are only available from 2003 onwards. Figures are only available based on the size of the individual site as opposed to the size of the enterprise.

| | *Witham* | | | | *Great Britain* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Small businesses (1-10 employees)* | | *Medium businesses (11-200 employees)* | | *Small businesses (1-10 employees)* | | *Medium businesses (11-200 employees)* | |
| *Period* | *Number of employees (thousand)* | *Proportion of employees for small sized businesses* | *Number of employees (thousand)* | *Proportion of employees for medium sized businesses* | *Number of employees (thousand)* | *Proportion of employees for small sized businesses* | *Number of employees (thousand)* | *Proportion of employees for medium sized businesses* |
| 1998 | — | — | — | — | 5,198 | 21.5 | 11.654 | 48.3 |
| 1999 | — | — | — | — | 5,345 | 21.7 | 11,577 | 47.0 |
| 2000 | — | — | — | — | 5,435 | 21.7 | 12,040 | 48.1 |
| 2001 | — | — | — | — | 5,288 | 20.9 | 12,397 | 49.0 |
| 2002 | — | — | — | — | 5,279 | 20 8 | 12,472 | 49.1 |
| 2003 | 8.6 | 28.9 | 16.3 | 54.7 | 5,246 | 20.5 | 12,548 | 49.1 |
| 2004 | 8.6 | 29.3 | 15.8 | 53.7 | 5,271 | 20.3 | 12,711 | 49.1 |
| 2005[1] | 8.7 | 29.3 | 16.9 | 56.9 | 5,428 | 20.6 | 12,859 | 48.8 |
| 2006[1] | 8.8 | 29.5 | 16.6 | 55.7 | 5,459 | 20.9 | 12,536 | 47.9 |
| 2007 | 9.2 | 30.4 | 15.9 | 52.5 | 5,518 | 20.9 | 12,616 | 47.7 |
| 2008 | 9.3 | 30.6 | 15.8 | 52.0 | 5,574 | 21.0 | 12.557 | 47.4 |

[1] Estimates for 2005 and earlier periods are on a different basis to those from 2006 onwards. An assessment of changes in survey methodology suggests that the estimated total number of employees (for GB at the whole economy level) was reduced by around 417 thousand. Direct comparisons of employee estimates over these different periods should therefore be treated with caution.

*Source:*

Annual Business Inquiry

## Food: Procurement

**Dr Pugh:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to increase the efficiency of public sector food procurement. [4344]

**Mr Maude:** Work to increase the efficiency of food procurement will be taken forward by the Efficiency and Reform Group as part of this Government's commitment to centralise the procurement of commodity goods and services across Government.

## Government Departments: Manpower

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of his Department's information-gathering exercise on non-payroll staff; what the timescale was for organisations to respond to requests for information; how many organisations *(a)* responded and *(b)* failed to respond to such requests; and whether he plans to publish further such figures on his Department's website. [4096]

**Mr Maude:** The information gathering exercise on non-payroll staff was a scoping exercise to collate key management information that already exists without additional costs to the public purse. No additional costs were incurred by the Cabinet Office as existing resources were used to co-ordinate the collection.

The initial request for information was issued on Friday 4 June with a return date of close of business on Friday 11 June. A further nine organisations were contacted on Monday 14 June and given a deadline of close of business on Tuesday 15 June.

The number of separate organisations responding to the exercise in time to be included for publication on Friday 18 June was 320. Details are available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk

These are not official statistics.

All Government Departments, their agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) were within scope for this exercise. Returns published on the Cabinet Office website were those received in time for publication on 18 June. Returns that were not received in time for publication are still being collated and will be published in due course.

This is basic management information that all organizations ought to have available at all times.

## Immigration

**Dr Huppert:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of non-EU *(a)* migrants and *(b)* economic migrants who (i) have arrived to live in the UK and (ii) have emigrated from the UK in each year since 2003. [4609]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of non-EU (a) migrants and (b) economic migrants who (i) have arrived to live in the UK and (ii) have emigrated from the UK in each year since 2003. (4609)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes estimates of migrants entering and leaving the UK. The attached table provides estimates of long-term migration by non-EU citizens, for all reasons and where the main reason is work related, for each year since 2003. These estimates are based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS).

These migration estimates cover those entering or leaving the UK with the intention of living in the destination country for periods of twelve months or more. They will therefore exclude those entering or leaving the UK for less than twelve months. They cover all reasons and will include all those who state they are travelling for work related reasons although not everyone will find work. Similarly, those who travel for other purposes may subsequently work.

These estimates are of numbers of moves each year rather than numbers of people. For instance, an individual could enter in one year, leave just over a year later and then enter again a year after that. They would appear three times in this table.

*Long-term international migration, estimates from International Passenger Survey: annual data, 2003-08*

*Non-EU citizenship by main reason for migration (all reasons and work related reasons only)*

| | | | | *United Kingdom (thousand)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All reasons* | | *All work related* | |
| | *Estimate* | *Relative standard error (%)* | *Estimate* | *Relative standard error (%)* |
| *Inflow* | | | | |
| 2003[1] | 266 | 4 | 85 | 7 |
| 2004[2] | 329 | 5 | 113 | 9 |
| 2005[2] | 287 | 4 | 93 | 8 |
| 2006[2] | 315 | 4 | 100 | 7 |
| 2007[3] | 283 | 4 | 73 | 7 |
| 2008[3] | 278 | 4 | 66 | 8 |
| *Outflow* | | | | |
| 2003[1] | 102 | 7 | 63 | 9 |
| 2004[2] | 92 | 7 | 65 | 8 |
| 2005[2] | 107 | 8 | 74 | 10 |
| 2006[2] | 115 | 7 | 79 | 8 |
| 2007[3] | 93 | 5 | 63 | 5 |
| 2008[3] | 110 | 5 | 74 | 6 |

Migration between the UK and the Republic of Ireland is included in IPS estimates for 2008 but excluded for previous years.

[1] For 2003, non-European Union estimates exclude EU15 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden).

[2] For 2004 to 2006, non-European Union estimates exclude EU25 (EU15 and A8 groupings—the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia—plus Malta and Cyprus).

[3] From 2007, non-European Union estimates exclude EU27 (EU25 plus Bulgaria and Romania).

$$\text{relative standard error (\%)} = \frac{\text{standard error}}{\text{estimate}} \times 100$$

## Job Creation: Redcar

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new jobs were created in Redcar constituency in each of the last five years. [4590]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply to the hon. Member. A copy of their response will be placed in the Library.

### Job Creation: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new jobs were created in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [4357]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many new jobs were created in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years.(4357)

While statistics of new jobs created are not available explicitly, statistics from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in employment from year to year.

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 attached provides estimates based on people aged 16 and over, in employment, resident in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and The Humber.

Figures are provided for the twelve months ending December 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009. Estimates for the new parliamentary constituencies are not currently-available for the twelve months ending December 2007.

As with any survey, results from the APS at small geographical areas are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Table 1: Number of persons in employment, resident in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and The Humber*

*Level (thousand)*

| | *12 months ending December each year* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2009*[1] | *2008* | *2007*[2] | *2006* | *2005* | *2004* |
| *Parliamentary constituency* | | | | | | |
| Barnsley Central | 37*** | 38 | — | 37 | 37 | 36 |
| Barnsley East | 35*** | 38 | — | 39 | 36 | 37 |
| Batley and Spen | 49** | 53 | — | 48 | 50 | 48 |
| Beverley and Holderness | 50** | 49 | — | 55 | 52 | 43 |
| Bradford East | 43** | 50 | — | 46 | 46 | 43 |
| Bradford South | 52** | 56 | — | 44 | 45 | 47 |
| Bradford West | 32*** | 30 | — | 33 | 38 | 32 |
| Brigg and Goole | 44** | 43 | — | 38 | 40 | 40 |
| Calder Valley | 48** | 52 | — | 48 | 47 | 49 |
| Cleethorpes | 40** | 42 | — | 41 | 43 | 39 |
| Colne Valley | 55** | 54 | — | 50 | 51 | 53 |
| Dewsbury | 44** | 42 | — | 50 | 50 | 46 |
| Don Valley | 41** | 42 | — | 44 | 44 | 42 |
| Doncaster Central | 42** | 43 | — | 44 | 42 | 45 |
| Doncaster North | 38*** | 43 | — | 39 | 43 | 39 |
| East Yorkshire | 47** | 50 | — | 43 | 44 | 39 |
| Elmet and Rothwell | 49** | 51 | — | 58 | 52 | 44 |
| Great Grimsby | 39*** | 39 | — | 41 | 39 | 40 |
| Halifax | 44** | 45 | — | 46 | 46 | 43 |
| Haltemprice and Howden | 40** | 38 | — | 39 | 38 | 46 |
| Harrogate and Knaresborough | 47** | 48 | — | 56 | 55 | 55 |
| Hemsworth | 45** | 43 | — | 50 | 40 | 42 |
| Huddersfield | 37*** | 41 | — | 40 | 41 | 40 |
| Keighley | 49** | 37 | — | 42 | 44 | 40 |
| Kingston upon Hull East | 39*** | 40 | — | 39 | 42 | 48 |
| Kingston upon Hull North | 39*** | 37 | — | 41 | 40 | 38 |
| Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle | 36*** | 36 | — | 40 | 37 | 35 |
| Leeds Central | 55** | 60 | — | 52 | 54 | 46 |
| Leeds East | 45** | 43 | — | 50 | 35 | 42 |
| Leeds North East | 43** | 44 | — | 56 | 49 | 48 |
| Leeds North West | 44** | 45 | — | 51 | 51 | 40 |
| Leeds West | 52** | 43 | — | 41 | 40 | 53 |
| Morley and Outwood | 56** | 58 | — | 53 | 50 | 58 |
| Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford | 44** | 50 | — | 47 | 53 | 50 |
| Penistone and Stocksbridge | 42** | 42 | — | 39 | 41 | 47 |
| Pudsey | 49** | 49 | — | 38 | 42 | 46 |
| Richmond (Yorks) | 52** | 53 | — | 48 | 47 | 50 |
| Rother Valley | 42** | 44 | — | 45 | 44 | 46 |
| Rotherham | 36*** | 35 | — | 37 | 39 | 39 |
| Scarborough and Whitby | 41** | 46 | — | 42 | 44 | 42 |
| Scunthorpe | 35*** | 39 | — | 43 | 39 | 41 |
| Selby and Ainsty | 44** | 50 | — | 44 | 45 | 43 |
| Sheffield Central | 42** | 40 | — | 40 | 40 | 34 |
| Sheffield South East | 48** | 42 | — | 36 | 38 | 46 |

*Table 1: Number of persons in employment, resident in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and The Humber*

*Level (thousand)*

| | *12 months ending December each year* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2009*[1] | *2008* | *2007*[2] | *2006* | *2005* | *2004* |
| Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough | 40** | 47 | — | 45 | 47 | 39 |
| Sheffield, Hallam | 37*** | 45 | — | 44 | 41 | 39 |
| Sheffield, Heeley | 46** | 48 | — | 40 | 49 | 42 |
| Shipley | 43** | 50 | — | 52 | 40 | 43 |
| Skipton and Ripon | 57** | 53 | — | 43 | 48 | 46 |
| Thirsk and Malton | 47** | 44 | — | 49 | 50 | 42 |
| Wakefield | 42** | 44 | — | 47 | 43 | 43 |
| Wentworth and Dearne | 39 | 41 | — | 41 | 44 | 40 |
| York Central | 54** | 54 | — | 49 | 48 | 51 |
| York Outer | 46** | 50 | — | 53 | 51 | 46 |

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent, we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

| *Key* | *Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%)* | *Statistical Robustness* |
|---|---|---|
| * | $0 \le CV < 5$ | Estimates are considered precise |
| ** | $5 \le CV < 10$ | Estimates are considered reasonably precise |
| *** | $10 \le CV < 20$ | Estimates are considered acceptable |
| **** | $CV \ge 20$ | Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes |

[2] Estimates for the new parliamentary constituencies are not currently available for this period.

*Source:*

Annual Population Survey

## National School of Government: Finance

**Nick de Bois:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish the terms of the National School of Government's private finance initiative agreements. [3774]

**Mr Hurd:** The National School of Government is a non-ministerial department which I have responsibility for in Parliament. Consequently, I have asked the chief executive for the National School of Government to assist by writing to you.

*Letter from Rod Clark:*

The National School PFI contract with De Vere Venues is commercially in confidence.

## New Businesses: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of new businesses in the London borough of Bexley in the last 12 months. [3312]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of new business start-ups in the London borough of Bexley in the last 12 months. [3312]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The following table contains the latest statistics available on enterprise births in London borough of Bexley which are for 2008.

*Count of enterprise births in 2008 for the London borough of Bexley*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Bexley | 810 |

## Special Advisers Remuneration Committee

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) which Ministers are members of the Special Advisers' Remuneration Committee; [2846]

(2) on which dates the Special Advisers' Remuneration Committee has met since 6 May 2010. [2845]

**Mr Maude:** The Ministers on the Special Advisers, Remuneration Committee are the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Chairman), myself, and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Members).

Information relating to meetings of internal committees is not normally disclosed.

## Third Sector

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what definition of a voluntary and community organisation his Department uses. [3516]

**Mr Hurd:** The Government do not have a strict definition of a voluntary and community organisation as they are so wide-ranging. However, they include organisations that work for a social or cultural aim and are not primarily for profit. These organisations may trade as part of their work, employ paid staff or work with volunteers.

# TREASURY

## Capital Gains Tax

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had on the definition of non-business assets in respect of the application of capital gains tax; and if he will make a statement. [4705]

**Mr Gauke:** The Government received a number of representations, including discussions with interested parties, on the Coalition Agreement proposals regarding capital gains tax. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

### Child Tax Credit

**Liz Kendall:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many households with annual incomes of over £40,000 are in receipt of child tax credit in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leicester and *(c)* Leicester West constituency; [4603]

(2) how many households are in receipt of the baby element of child tax credit in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leicester and *(c)* Leicester West constituency. [4605]

**Mr Gauke:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Table 1: Number of families receiving tax credits by region*

*(thousand)*

| | *In-work families with incomes over £40,000 receiving child tax credit* | *Families receiving the baby element* |
|---|---|---|
| England | 495.9 | 405.6 |
| Leicester | 1.5 | 3.4 |
| Leicester West constituency | 0.5 | 1.2 |

These estimates are based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about this data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits-cwtc-geog-stats.htm

### Departmental Pay

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 68W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [3253]

**Justine Greening:** The following table gives detail of the salary range of staff employed at each grade in the private offices of Treasury Ministers:

| *Pay grade* | *Salary range (£)* |
|---|---|
| AO | 18,116 to 21,663 |
| EO | 21,621 to 26,720 |
| HEO/SEO | 26,910 to 38,255 |
| Grade 6/7 | 44,835 to 57,801 |
| SCS1 | 58,200 to 117,800 |

### Financial Services: Pay

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statement of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1056-58, on banking reform, what assessment he has made of the effect of his proposals on remuneration practices in the financial services sector; and if he will make a statement. [4161]

**Mr Hoban:** As part of the work being undertaken to reform the financial services sector the Government will take action to tackle unacceptable bonuses. This will include the Government looking at structural and non-structural measures to reform the banking system and promote competition. As announced in the Budget we will consult on a remuneration disclosure regime in the financial services sector and will explore the costs and benefits of a financial activities tax on profits and remuneration, in addition the Government will ask the FSA to examine further options the forthcoming review of its remuneration code.

### Financial Services: Regulation

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account his Department and the Bank of England have taken of the recommendations of the Bingham report on the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in determining the future role of the Bank in financial regulation. [4173]

**Mr Hoban** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* The Treasury has considered a wide range of views in developing the Government's proposals for financial regulation. The Treasury will publish a consultation document on these proposals before the summer recess.

### Insurance: Construction

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what investigations the Financial Services Authority has conducted into the Masterbond warranty scheme operated by the Federation of Master Builders in the last 10 years; and if he will publish the conclusions of each such investigation. [3867]

**Mr Hoban** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* The Financial Services Authority is the independent regulator for the financial services industry in the UK. I understand that for legal and policy reasons the FSA cannot comment specifically on action that it may or may not have taken. If, following due process, the FSA takes formal disciplinary action against a firm and imposes a sanction, its standard practice is to issue the outcome in a press notice.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr Baron:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the emails of 27 May and 4 June 2010 and to the letter of 8 June 2010 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay on the Ford loan guarantee. [4635]

**Danny Alexander:** I have replied to the hon. Member.

### Office for Budget Responsibility

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse has been of establishing the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR); what mechanism was used to appoint its staff; where such staff posts were advertised; what qualifications are required for each post; what powers the OBR will have to require papers and financial data from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other departments; and whether the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will apply to the OBR. [1086]

**Justine Greening:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given to the hon. Member for Southport (Dr Pugh) on 3 June, *Official Report*, column 103W.

Identifiable costs associated with the interim Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) include the building and facilities management costs involved in the establishment of the new office in May 2010 and the creation of its website. Full details of these costs are not available prior to processing and reporting.

No staff posts have been advertised and there have been no new staff appointments to the OBR.

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 apply to the interim OBR as they do to the Treasury.

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps were taken to ensure that appointments made to the Office of Budgetary Regulation were compliant with policy on the appointment of women to public bodies. [3708]

**Justine Greening:** The appointments to the interim Budget Responsibility Committee (BRC) of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) were undertaken on an expedited basis to ensure the OBR could perform its functions for the emergency Budget. These appointments were made on an interim basis and are not appointments to a permanent BRC.

Sir Alan Budd, as chair of the interim BRC, will be advising the Chancellor on the arrangements for the permanent OBR, including on the appointments process.

### Personal Income

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Financial Statement of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 166-80, what estimate he has made of the percentage change in net income at each level of income distribution as a result of each proposal for changes to benefits in *(a)* 2013-14 and *(b)* 2014-15. [4649]

**Mr Gauke:** This Government are committed to transparency and, for the first time, have published estimates of the distributional impact of announced tax and benefit measures in the Budget document.

Estimates of the distributional impact of tax credit and benefits changes implemented in 2012-13 are set out in annex A of the Budget document:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

As no pre-announced tax credit and benefit changes have been modelled, estimates show the impact of this Budget measures. "Budget 2010: Data sources" provides a full list of modelled measures:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_data_sources.pdf

Estimates for later years are not available due to greater uncertainty surrounding longer term economic forecasts underpinning the modelling.

### Pregnant Women: Grants

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of previously eligible women who will not be entitled to claim health in pregnancy grant under the Government's proposals in each year to 2014-15. [4662]

**Justine Greening:** It is estimated that there are around 750,000 qualifying pregnancies each year, based on national statistics projections of births.

### Public Finance

**Dr Pugh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the savings to accrue from implementation of shared services in Government in the next two financial years. [3804]

**Mr Maude:** I have been asked to reply.

There are currently no specific estimates around what each Department is likely to save from the implementation of shared services in the next two financial years.

As part of the preparation process for the spending review this summer, Departments are being challenged to consider a variety of different ways in which they can deliver services, and we expect this to include the use of shared services.

### Public Finance: Redditch

**Karen Lumley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will include in the Budget measures to protect vulnerable and poor people in Redditch. [3973]

**Mr Gauke:** The Budget met its twin aims of tackling the deficit fairly, while supporting those in most need.

The Budget announced a package of measures to promote work, tackle welfare dependency and support the most vulnerable. The Budget will have a statistically insignificant impact on child poverty over the next two years. For example, while child benefit was frozen for three years, the child element of the child tax credit will be increased by £150 in 2011-12, and a further £60 in 2012-13. These increases will happen above indexation.

Budget announced that the basic state pension will be uprated by a triple guarantee of earnings, prices (CPI) or 2.5%, whichever is highest, from April 2011. However, the Government will increase the basic state pension in April 2011 by at least the equivalent of RPI.

To ensure that pensioners on the lowest incomes benefit from the triple guarantee, the standard minimum income guarantee in pension credit will increase in April 2011 by the cash rise in a full basic state pension.

At Budget, we also announced a £1,000 cash-terms increase in the income tax personal allowance for those aged under 65, taking it from £6,475 in 2010-11 to £7,475 in 2011-12. It is estimated that this will remove 880,000 of the lowest-income taxpayers from tax altogether and will benefit around 23 million basic-rate taxpayers by up to £170 per year compared to the previous Government's plans.

### Public Sector: Hastings

**Amber Rudd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the level of public sector employment in the borough of Hastings; and if he will include that borough in the districts which are to be part of the three-year scheme to exempt businesses from up to £5,000 of class-one employer national insurance contributions. [4262]

**Mr Gauke:** Information on public-sector employment using national accounts definitions is not available at borough level.

The regional employer national insurance holiday for new businesses is targeted at those regional labour markets most reliant on public sector employment. Labour markets generally extend much more widely than borough boundaries. For this reason, and for reasons of administrative practicality, eligibility for the holiday will be defined by region.

However, all businesses will benefit from increased NICs threshold and cut in corporation tax.

### Public Sector: Pensions

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate *(a)* the savings in each year of the Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts arising from the adoption of the consumer price index as the basis for indexation of public sector pensions and *(b)* such savings in each successive five-year period to 2050. [4503]

**Justine Greening:** The estimated savings in annually managed expenditure for benefits, tax credits and public sector pensions each year of the forecast period from switching to the consumer price index were published in line 22 of Table 2.1 in Budget 2010.

The Government do not currently hold information on savings beyond the forecast period, which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Taxation: Bingo

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to reduce the level of gross profit tax levied on bingo club operators. [3979]

**Justine Greening:** The Government keep all taxes under review and tax policy is made at the Budget.

### Taxation: Gambling

**Luciana Berger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what rate of gross profit tax is paid by *(a)* bingo clubs, *(b)* high street bookmakers and *(c)* online bingo websites. [4025]

**Justine Greening:** Bingo clubs pay a bingo duty of 20% on bingo promotion profits. High street bookmakers pay a general betting duty of 15% on over-the-counter bets. Online bingo websites which are licensed in the UK pay a remote gaming duty of 15% on gross profits.

### VAT: Sunscreen

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of exempting sun screen products from value added tax. [4420]

**Mr Gauke:** EU agreements do not allow the UK to introduce new zero rates. The Government could not apply a zero rate to retail sales of sun protection products. As part of the review of reduced rates in 2004, HMRC estimated the cost of applying a reduced rate of 5% to sun protection products at around £20 million a year.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to lines 37 to 45 of table 2.1 of Budget 2010, HC 61, what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* families and *(b)* children who will be less affluent as a result of his proposals to change tax credits in each year to 2014-15; and what estimate he has made of the average reduction in tax credits in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in each such year. [4647]

**Justine Greening:** The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

This Government are committed to transparency and for the first time has published estimates of the distributional impact of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.Uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

### Welfare Tax Credits: Midlothian

**Mr David Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people in Midlothian constituency affected by the changes to *(a)* working tax credits and *(b)* child tax credits announced in the Budget statement on 22 June 2010. [4322]

**Mr Gauke:** To ensure support is better targeted at low-income families with children, the Government will freeze child benefit for three years and recycle the savings into significant increases to the child tax credit.

The child element of the child tax credit will be increased by £150 above indexation in 2011-12 and £60 above indexation in 2012-13. As a result of this, the Budget will have no measurable negative impact on child poverty over the next two years.

All individuals in the Midlothian constituency currently entitled to tax credits will be affected by the changes to both working and child tax credits, specifically the switch to up-rating by the consumer price index rather than the retail price index.

The latest information on the number of households benefiting from tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 29 June 2010*

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Elgin Marbles

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will consider the merits of *(a)* loaning and *(b)* giving back to Greece the Parthenon marbles; and if he will discuss options for the future of the Parthenon Marbles with the Board of the British Museum. [4868]

**Mr Vaizey:** The trustees of the British Museum are responsible for the stewardship of the national collection and they do so independently of Government, in line with the arm's length principle. The trustees have undertaken to consider, subject to questions of condition and fitness to travel, any request for any part of the museum collection to be borrowed and then returned. I have no plans to discuss the Parthenon Sculptures with the trustees of the British Museum.

### Football: South Africa

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* officials from his Department (i) have attended and (ii) plan to attend any FIFA World Cup 2010 games in South Africa. [4278]

**Hugh Robertson:** I attended the England v USA match and travelled economy class on both legs of the journey. No officials attended. The Secretary of State attended the England v Algeria match accompanied by one official and also travelled economy class for both journeys.

We met with various members of the FIFA family during our visits to discuss England's bid for the 2018 World Cup, one of the Government's top priorities for sport.

### Olympic Games 2012: Lambeth

**Mr Umunna:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of the legacy for the London borough of Lambeth and its residents from the London 2012 Olympic Games; [4086]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that London boroughs other than those hosting the London 2012 Olympics will obtain a legacy from the games. [4087]

**Hugh Robertson:** The London borough of Lambeth, London as a whole, and the wider UK are benefitting from the opportunities created by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

There has been significant infrastructure investment in and around the Olympic Park, including transport and utilities. Other economic benefits that have accrued to London include:

Of the 6,442 contracted work force on the Olympic Park (excluding the Village) at the end of March 2010, 3,457 were from London, of which 2,185 were resident outside the five east London host boroughs (Greenwich, Newham, Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest). The Olympic Delivery Authority and its partners have a range of measures in place, including dedicated training centres, to promote sustainable employment benefits from the building of the Olympic Park.

Of the 1,349 companies that have won over £5 billion of work directly supplying the ODA (May 2010), 689 were registered in London, of which 493 were registered outside the host boroughs and 20 in Lambeth. Many more business across London are winning work in the supply chains of the ODA contractors and LOCOG began in January its procurement for everything it needs to stage the games, so there will be many more opportunities for business in London across many sectors to get involved.

34,047 London companies, of which 27,418 come from outside the five east London host boroughs (June 2010), were registered on CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage system giving companies access to Olympic-related opportunities and the support to compete for them.

The Mayor of London is responsible for maximising the impact of the Games across London and has been working with a range of pan-London partners including his family of agencies to deliver a coherent legacy programme that ensures people living in London gain from the positive effects of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### Olympic Games 2012: North West

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 235W, on Olympic games 2012: North West, in which constituency each of the 85 games-inspired projects in the north west which have been awarded the Inspire Mark is taking place. [4031]

**Hugh Robertson:** The Department does not hold the information at a constituency level: however, 69 of the 85 Inspire projects in the north west region, and their sub-regions, are listed as follows.

| *Project name* | *Sub region* |
|---|---|
| Firefit UK | Merseyside |
| On track: Clatterbridge | Merseyside |
| Get Inspired | Merseyside |
| Fun4U | Cheshire |
| Wigan—Whats your Game | Greater Manchester |
| S.P.L.A.T—Sports Participation, Leadership and Attendance Targets | Greater Manchester |
| Knowsley's Sporting Heroes | Merseyside |
| 50m Training Programme and Aquatic Youth Club | Regional |
| Handball programme | Cheshire |
| Something to Chew on | Greater Manchester |
| Festival of Sport | Greater Manchester |
| EATS | Cheshire |
| Motiv8 | Greater Manchester |
| Passport to Pedalling | Cumbria |
| Active Sports | Merseyside |

| *Project name* | *Sub region* |
|---|---|
| Minibeast Triathlon | Greater Manchester |
| Marathon Walk | Greater Manchester |
| CADs | Greater Manchester |
| go 4 it | Cheshire |
| Golden Sports | Merseyside |
| Proud and Spirited | Merseyside |
| Rochdale refugee – Going for Gold | Greater Manchester |
| club and coach volunteer support | Greater Manchester |
| Table Tennis 4U | Merseyside |
| Tameside big dance | Greater Manchester |
| Haitons Sporting Excellence programme | Merseyside |
| sport unlimited – Cumbria | Cumbria |
| Active Arcade | Cheshire |
| Inspire to Aim Higher | Cheshire |
| Inspire BB Leagues | Cheshire |
| Halton sports programme | Merseyside |
| St Helen's Dance Week | Merseyside |
| Personal Best | Regional |
| Merseyside disability Events | Merseyside |
| Motive8 Wirral | Merseyside |
| Cumbria Ambassadors | Cumbria |
| Wirral Swim | Merseyside |
| Fit4Fun | Greater Manchester |
| Sport Unlimited – Cheshire | Cheshire |
| VISPA | Cheshire |
| World Games Challenge | Greater Manchester |
| Sport Unlimited – Merseyside | Merseyside |
| Interfaith Games | Greater Manchester |
| Tameside Volunteers Festival | Greater Manchester |
| Be InVOLved | Lancashire |
| City as a Gym | Greater Manchester |
| DadaVisions | Merseyside |
| Cultural Conversations | Merseyside |
| AND | Merseyside |
| Welcoming the World | Cumbria |
| Places of public resort | Merseyside |
| Neon attractors | Regional |
| New cultural journeys | Lancashire |
| Welcoming the Light | Cumbria |
| Sufi meets Zen | Cumbria |
| Zircus plus | Cumbria |
| Abandon Normal Devices | Lancashire |
| Woven Culture | Regional |
| Manchester Volunteer Sport Bureau | Greater Manchester |
| Goldfactor | Lancashire |
| Blaze | Lancashire |
| St Helens Club Conference | Merseyside |
| Supporter to Reporter | Greater Manchester |
| Street Sports | Cheshire |
| Girls Football Programme | Greater Manchester |
| Mintfest International (Lakes Alive) | Cumbria |
| Into the Woods (Lakes Alive) | Cumbria |

In addition, the following 16 local authorities in the North West have been awarded the Inspire mark for their delivery of Government's Free Swimming programme: Sefton metropolitan borough council, Rochdale metropolitan borough council, Oldham metropolitan borough council, Cheshire East borough council, Cheshire West and Chester council, Warrington borough council, South Lakeland Leisure, Wigan council, Manchester city council, Salford city council, Halton borough council, Knowsley metropolitan borough council, Preston city council, Liverpool city council, Blackpool council, Wirral council. The funding for the Free Swimming programme will end on 31 July 2010 as part of in-year spending savings.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 245W, on Olympic Games 2012: North West, what the names are of *(a)* the 52 suppliers to the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and *(b)* other contractors to the ODA that are based in the north-west region; and in which constituency each is based. [4032]

**Hugh Robertson:** Details of the Olympic Delivery Authority's suppliers are published in the business section of the London 2012 website:

http://www.london2012.com/business

under the heading ODA Suppliers. There you will find suppliers listed by venue and sector. As well as those businesses that are directly supplying the ODA, many more are winning work in the supply chains of its contractors. As these are not public procurements a comprehensive list of these supply chain contractors is not available, but a number have been identified by the ODA as part of its supply chain research published in November last year on the London 2012 website.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 245W, on Olympic Games 2012: North West, in which constituency each of the 68 facilities in the north-west region that are featured in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide is located. [4033]

**Hugh Robertson:** The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) produced the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide ('the guide'), which includes the 68 facilities that met the criteria to be world-class training venues for Olympic and Paralympic sport in the north-west. The guide has been produced in an online form and is accessible at:

http://trainingcamps.london2012.com

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 245W, on Olympic Games 2012: North West, what Olympic facilities in the north-west region are referred to in the memoranda of understanding with the 17 Oceania National Olympic Committees, the National Olympic Committee of Thailand and Australia's swimming team; and in which parliamentary constituency each is located. [4034]

**Hugh Robertson:** To date, the agreements have been made with the north-west region. The specific facilities that will be used will therefore be confirmed in due course. However, I am aware that the Australian swimming team will be hosted by the Manchester Aquatics Centre.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 245W, on Olympic Games 2012: North West, what Olympics cultural legacy projects are planned for the North-West region. [4035]

**Hugh Robertson:** The Cultural Olympiad comprises cultural events in the run-up to the London 2012 Games that aim to leave a cultural legacy. The Cultural Olympiad includes Major National Projects, annual Open Weekends and individual projects that have been awarded the Inspire Mark.

Some of the Cultural Olympiad Major National Projects include a regional component. "Artists Taking the Lead" features cutting edge art works in each region. In the North-West this work is Projected Column by Anthony McCall which will be located in Morpeth Dock, Birkenhead. "Stories of the World" is a UK wide series of exhibitions featuring collections reinterpreted by young people, local communities, historians, artists and other fresh voices. In the North-West the exhibition is Global Threads, based around Lancashire's heritage of textiles and cotton mills.

Open Weekend 2010 will take place over 23-25 July. So far, 36 cultural and sports events in the North West have been registered.

13 cultural projects in the North-West have been awarded the Inspire Mark. Three examples are "Lakes Alive", a programme of street art events across the Lake District and Cumbria; "Places of Public resort", an interactive heritage project for the Liverpool BBC Live site; and "Abandon Normal Devices", a brand new arts festival for the North West alternating annually between Liverpool and Manchester.

As elsewhere in the UK, Cultural Olympiad events will bring communities in the North-West together, allowing local people to access activities they may never have experienced before leading to a broader interest and participation in cultural pursuits that will extend beyond 2012.

### Olympic Games 2012: Triathlon Homes

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many of the affordable homes in the Olympic Village development owned by Triathlon Homes will be made available as social rented homes for people on local housing waiting lists in *(a)* Tower Hamlets and *(b)* other host boroughs. [4148]

**Hugh Robertson** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* The Triathlon agreement entered into in 2009 includes 1,379 affordable homes in the Olympic Village. The lettings policy is currently being developed by Triathlon Homes, in full consultation with the five host boroughs, the Greater London Authority and the London Mayor's housing strategy.

### Olympic Games 2012: Wigan

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what he expects the legacy of the 2012 Olympics will be for the Metropolitan borough of Wigan; and if he will make a statement. [4088]

**Hugh Robertson:** As part of the north-west region, Wigan stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 Games. I therefore refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 245W.

In addition, I can confirm that at least two companies in Wigan have been awarded contracts in the London 2012 supply chain.

Details of the Olympic Delivery Authority's suppliers are published in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers:

http://www.london2012.com/business

Businesses that win work in the supply chains of ODA's contractors, such as the two companies in Wigan, are not public procurements and therefore a comprehensive list of these supply chain contractors is not available. However a number have been identified by the ODA as part of its supply chain research which was published in November last year on the London 2012 website.

### Sports: Facilities

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what mechanisms are in place to prevent the sale or redevelopment of community sports facilities other than playing fields. [4002]

**Hugh Robertson:** The sale of community sports facilities are primarily matters for local authorities. Sales by local authorities would be based on proposals by individual local authorities as central government does not determine what assets they may wish to sell.

Any disposal of an asset (land or building) should be based on a local, robust needs assessment. In the case of a built sports facility, local authorities should only release assets where there is no proven need—a proportion of any revenue saving or capital receipt should be reinvested back into community sports facilities in order to meet customer needs.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Official Cars

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his policy is on the use by Ministers in his Department of cars allocated from *(a)* his Department's pool and *(b)* the Government car pool which are manufactured in the UK; whether Ministers in his Department are entitled to request the use of a car manufactured in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [2421]

**Mr Paterson:** The Northern Ireland Office uses cars provided by the Government Car and Dispatch Agency as necessary for official ministerial business under guidelines provided by the Cabinet Office. Ministers in the Department are not involved in decisions relating to the origin of manufacture. This is exactly the same arrangement as existed under the previous Administration.

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3198]

**Mr Paterson:** No civil servant or special adviser in the Northern Ireland Office is entitled to a car with a dedicated driver. Civil servants and special advisers use public transport where possible but may use a car from the Government Car and Dispatch Agency or a pre-booked taxi when it is necessary to help meet a departmental business need.

### Devolution

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the First and Deputy First Minister for Northern Ireland on the devolution of further powers to Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [4194]

**Mr Paterson:** As Secretary of State I have had no discussions with the First and Deputy First Minister for Northern Ireland on the devolution of further powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

### Irish Language: Finance

**Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland by what mechanisms the £8 million allocated the development of the Irish language after the Hillsborough Agreement of 4 February 2010 will be disbursed; and what criteria will be used to determine which groups receive assistance from that fund. [4275]

**Mr Paterson:** The previous Government provided £8 million to a charitable trust—the Irish Language Investment Fund—which will make grants to capital projects in support of Irish language development in communities in line with their business plan.

### Public Expenditure

**Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will discuss with the Chancellor of the Exchequer steps to reduce the difference in the per capita level of public expenditure between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. [4261]

**Mr Paterson:** Most public expenditure in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive. The coalition's programme for Government makes it clear that the priority must be to reduce the deficit and therefore any change to the devolution funding system must await the stabilisation of the public finances.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### House of Commons Staff: Costs

**Mr Andrew Turner:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission, how much the House of Commons service has spent on *(a)* staff costs and *(b)* other costs in respect of each Select Committee in the most recent year for which figures are available. [4583]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** Overall costs of Select Committees in financial year 2009-10 are given in the following table. Details of Select Committee staff costs and a breakdown of costs by committee for financial year 2009-10 will be placed in the Library. The information will also be published shortly in the sessional return for 2009-10 (HC 1).

*Select committee costs in FY2009-10*

| *Costs:* | £ |
|---|---|
| Staffing | 10,115,595 |
| Printing | 2,596,004 |
| Overseas travel | 1,057,820 |
| UK travel | 150,228 |
| Specialist advisers | 322,014 |
| Research, specialist publications | 80,933 |
| Transcription of evidence | 511,879 |
| Witnesses' expenses | 27,186 |
| Entertainment and other minor expenses | 19,942 |
| Total | 14,881,601 |

## SCOTLAND

### Electoral Register

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Electoral Commission on its report on unregistered voters in Scotland. [4452]

**Michael Moore:** I plan to meet the Electoral Commission soon and I expect to discuss a range of matters with them, including electoral registration.

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department plans to take to reduce the number of unregistered voters in Scotland in response to the recent report by the Electoral Commission; and what discussions he plans to hold with electoral registration officers in Scotland on the matter. [4453]

**Michael Moore:** The Electoral Commission has met with all electoral registration officers in Scotland to discuss the findings of its recent report and to seek improvements in Scotland's registration levels. As a first step, I will be seeking an update on progress on improvements when I meet with the Electoral Commission soon.

### Fossil Fuel Levy

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* Chief Secretary to the Treasury on the fossil fuel levy; and what his plans are for the release to Scotland of funding allocated under the scheme. [4456]

**Michael Moore:** I have had numerous discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The fossil fuel levy issue was raised at the Joint Ministerial Committee Plenary meeting of 8 June 2010. In addition, the Budget of 22 June announced that the Government will review the control and use of accumulated and future revenues from the fossil fuel levy in Scotland.

### Future Jobs Fund

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether Ministers in his Department *(a)* have had recent discussions and *(b)* plan to have discussions with representatives of (i) the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and (ii) Scottish local authorities on the ending of the Future Jobs Fund. [4457]

**Michael Moore:** I met the chief executive and the deputy chief executive of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations on 21 June and discussed the Future Jobs Fund, among other things. I have no immediate plans to discuss the Future Jobs Fund with representatives of Scottish local authorities. I had an introductory telephone meeting with Councillor Pat Watters, president of the Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities on 22 June. The Future Jobs Fund was not raised at that meeting.

### Video Games

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the computer games industry in Scotland on the prospects for that industry; [4454]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the future of the computer games industry in Scotland. [4455]

**Michael Moore:** I have had none. However, as the hon. Member will know, the computer games industry is very important to Scotland's economy and I look forward to meeting representatives of the sector when an appropriate opportunity arises.

## TRANSPORT

### Crossrail Line

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects construction work on the Crossrail project to be completed. [4165]

**Mrs Villiers:** The planned date for commencement of Crossrail operations remains 2017.

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of proposals to reduce the planned length of Crossrail trains. [4051]

**Mrs Villiers:** In order to ensure that the project offers value for money and remains affordable, Crossrail Ltd is considering a number of value management and engineering options as they finalise designs for the scheme. This work has not yet been completed and no formal decisions have been sought from the Crossrail sponsors on the matter of the planned length of trains.

### Departmental Manpower

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers are employed by his Department; and at what civil service pay grade in each such case. [1275]

**Norman Baker:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* A list of special adviser appointments was published by the Prime Minister on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 33-34WS.

*(b)* The number of full-time equivalent staff (FTE) employed on press officer activities on the 1 April 2010 by the Department is set out by grade in the following table.

*Staff (FTE) employed on press officer activities on 1 April 2010*

| *Grade*[1] *(equivalent)*[2] | *PB2 (AO)* | *PB3 (EO)* | *PB4 (HEO)* | *PB5 (SEO)* | *PB6 (Grd7)* | *PB7 (Grd6)* | *SCSPB1 (Grd5)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DFT(C) | 0 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| DSA | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DVLA | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GCDA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HA | 0 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| MCA | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| VCA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| VOSA | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Grade pay bands of the central Department.

[2] Civil service grade equivalent.

The Highways Agency has seven regional press officers to support its role in operating, maintaining and improving the strategic road network in each region. These press officers are employed primarily to keep the public informed of roadworks, incidents and events which might affect their journeys.

### East Coast Railway Line: Franchises

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of changes to the previously announced timescale for the east coast rail franchise competition. [4175]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]*: Changes to the timescale for the inter city east coast franchise competition are still under consideration and a prior information notice will be issued in due course. The estimated cost to the public purse would depend on the final timescale for the competition, and reflect the extent to which the premium that would be paid by a private sector train operator might exceed that agreed with the current east coast operator.

### Railways: Franchises

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the total cost to the public purse of suspending the *(a)* Essex Thameside and *(b)* Greater Anglia rail franchise competition; [4176]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse from *(a)* loss of or delay to premium payments and *(b)* compensation payments to bidding companies arising from suspension of the competition for (i) the Essex Thameside and (ii) Greater Anglia rail franchise. [4184]

**Mrs Villiers** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]*: The two franchise extensions will have a theoretical opportunity cost caused by foregoing the higher premium/lower subsidy expected if the franchises were re-competed instead of extended. This is difficult to quantify, because assumptions need to be made about the likely prices from new bidders versus the cost of extending with incumbents. The opportunity cost arising from the delay to replacing franchises was estimated to be £6 million for Essex Thameside and £18 million for Greater Anglia. However, we believe that including the two franchises in the reformed system, on which we will be consulting shortly, will yield benefits for passengers and facilitate investment in the railways which will outweigh these costs.

In accordance with our accreditation process as advised to bidders the Department does not expect to have cause to incur compensation.

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the new franchise agreements for the Eastern Region Railway will require the operator to invest in fixed assets, with particular reference to Great Yarmouth railway station. [4316]

**Mrs Villiers:** We have announced a consultation exercise on future policy on rail franchising. Following that it is planned to restart the competition for the Greater Anglia competition later this year. Bidders are likely to be encouraged to develop proposals that deliver better trains, stations and services. Assessing the best way to encourage private sector investment in station improvement will form an important part of the upcoming rail franchise consultation.

### Railways: Overcrowding

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the extent of overcrowding on the 20 most crowded rail services. [3909]

**Mrs Villiers:** The Department for Transport holds passenger count data for rail services arriving into London and major regional cities during the peak commuter periods in autumn 2009. A list of the most crowded rail services is not routinely produced by the Department.

Crowding statistics based on the autumn 2009 passenger count data will be published at an aggregated level in the Office of Rail Regulation's National Rail Trends Yearbook in July 2010.

### Railways: Passengers

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the change in the number of passengers that will be carried on each rail franchise over the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15 and *(d)* 20 years. [4043]

**Mrs Villiers:** No estimate has been made of the change in the number of passengers that will be carried on each rail franchise over these periods.

### Road Traffic

**Mr Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the percentage change in traffic levels *(a)* on English roads and *(b)* on roads in each county within England was in each year since 1997, taking 1997 levels as the baseline. [4428]

**Mike Penning:** Tables showing percentage changes in traffic volumes for all motor vehicles on all roads for *(a)* English roads and *(b)* each local authority in England have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The figures provided in the tables are for the period 1997-2009. Table 1 shows estimated traffic for all motor vehicles, table 2 shows the percentage change from 1997 and table 3 shows year-on-year percentage changes.

Road traffic estimates are produced by using a consistent national methodology which is mainly designed to deliver national level estimates. Traffic figures at local authority level are less robust than the regional and national totals and are not classed as national statistics. Some discontinuities exist in the data between various years for certain local authorities.

### Transport: Renewable Energy

**Sadiq Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has retained the target of 10% of transport energy coming from renewable sources by 2020. [4052]

**Norman Baker:** The Government's coalition agreement contained a commitment to

> "seek to increase the target for energy from renewable sources, subject to the advice of the Climate Change Committee".

Currently, we are working towards transposing the EU renewable energy directive, which requires member states to source 10% transport energy from renewables by 2020. This target was agreed in 2009 and is part of a wider requirement to source 15% of overall energy from renewables by 2020.

Options for achieving our renewable energy in transport targets are being considered, and a formal consultation will take place in due course.

### Transport: Sustainable Development

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to build a modern and sustainable transport system in *(a)* West Sussex and *(b)* Mid Sussex. [4058]

**Norman Baker** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]*: The Department for Transport is focused on building a modern and sustainable transport system. This will contribute to future economic growth of all parts of England including in West Sussex and Mid Sussex.

Following the spending review we will be reviewing priorities for the transport network, including those in West Sussex and Mid Sussex.

### Travel: Greater London

**Mr Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's most recent estimate is of average city centre to city centre journey times by *(a)* road and *(b)* rail between London and (i) Manchester, (ii) Sheffield and (iii) Leeds. [4430]

**Mike Penning:** The information requested is as follows:

*Journeys by Road*

During the 12-month period from September 2008 to August 2009, the estimated average daytime journey times between London city centre and Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds city centres were as follows:

| *Destination from London (Trafalgar Square)* | *Average journey time (hours: minutes)* |
|---|---|
| Manchester (Royal Exchange) | 4:15 |
| Sheffield (Town Hall) | 3:33 |
| Leeds (Shopping Plaza) | 4:02 |

*Journeys by Rail*

Information on actual journey times on the railway network is not held by the Department. However, the most recent typical weekday advertised journey times from London to Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds are as follows:

| *Journey* | *Typical weekday advertised journey time (hours: minutes)* |
|---|---|
| London Euston—Manchester Piccadilly | 2:09 |
| London St Pancras—Sheffield Station | 2:09 |
| London King's Cross—Leeds Station | 2:26 |

It should be noted that the road and rail journey times are not directly comparable. The average road journey times include delayed journeys, whereas the rail journey times provided are advertised journey times and therefore do not account for delayed journeys. Additionally, rail journey times do not incorporate travel time between the city centre and the railway station.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Casualties

**Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the repatriation of bodies of soldiers killed in action after the closure of RAF Lyneham. [3492]

**Nick Harvey:** A study is under way to determine the most suitable location for repatriations once flying operations cease at RAF Lyneham in September 2011. A final decision will be made later this year.

### Armed Forces: Rescue Services

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many trained Royal Air Force search and rescue pilots have served on operations *(a)* in Afghanistan and *(b)* elsewhere overseas in the last five years. [3925]

**Nick Harvey:** A total of 21 trained RAF Search and Rescue pilots have served in Afghanistan during the last five years. Information on the total number of Search and Rescue pilots who have served overseas is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Search and Rescue Force operates a service in the UK and Falkland Islands only; those serving in Afghanistan and other overseas locations have flown in a non Search and Rescue role.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the incremental cost of retraining an armed forces helicopter pilot for a search and rescue role. [3926]

**Nick Harvey:** To retrain an armed forces helicopter pilot for a search and rescue role requires completion of two courses: the Search and Rescue Training Unit ab-initio pilot course; and the Search and Rescue Operational Conversion Unit. The total cost of these courses is just over £1 million.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the running costs, excluding asset depreciation, of the Royal Air Force search and rescue service were in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [3927]

**Nick Harvey:** The total costs, excluding asset depreciation, of the Air Rescue Coordination Centre, the RAF Sea King Search and Rescue force and the RAF mountain rescue service for the financial year 2009-10 was £62.26 million.

In addition, 84 Squadron RAF provides Search and Rescue services in Cyprus using contractor owned helicopters. The contract cost for financial year 2009-10 was £3.6 million.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms there are to recover from *(a)* other Departments, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* insurance companies and *(d)* individuals the cost of calling out Royal Air Force search and rescue helicopters; and how much has been recovered in such payments in the last five years. [3928]

**Nick Harvey:** No charges are made for responding to incidents involving imminent danger to human life. This is the case for the majority of Search and Rescue activity. Charges are raised for other occasions where RAF SAR units provide assistance to Government Departments and local health trusts. No charges are raised against individuals or insurance companies.

The amount recovered from other Government Departments in respect of RAF search and rescue call-outs each of the last five years is:

| *Financial year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 0.977 |
| 2006-07 | 1.090 |
| 2007-08 | 0.818 |
| 2008-09 | 1.213 |
| 2009-10 | 0.985 |

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* civilians and *(b)* members of the armed forces were (i) rescued and (ii) evacuated by Royal Air Force search and rescue helicopters (A) in the UK, (B) from UK waters and (C) elsewhere in each of the last five years. [3929]

**Nick Harvey:** Not all of the information is held in the format requested. Records are only held for combined numbers of people rescued and bodies recovered and the term evacuation is not used by the RAF in this context. Additionally, the locations of rescue operations are recorded by land, coast and maritime categories. The available information is provided in the following tables:

| | *Civilian* | *Rescue/Recovery* | | | *Military* | *Rescue/Recovery* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Land* | *Coast* | *Maritime* | *Total* | *Land* | *Coast* | *Maritime* | *Total* |
| *UK SAR Operations 2005-09* | | | | | | | | |
| 2005 | 416 | 250 | 125 | 791 | 18 | 3 | 4 | 25 |
| 2006 | 390 | 272 | 184 | 846 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 16 |
| 2007 | 692 | 226 | 188 | 1106 | 16 | 2 | 8 | 26 |
| 2008 | 577 | 169 | 188 | 934 | 17 | 0 | 4 | 21 |
| 2009 | 708 | 210 | 99 | 1017 | 11 | 0 | 3 | 14 |
| *Overseas SAR Operations 2005-09* | | | | | | | | |
| 2005 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 0 | 3 | 20 |
| 2006 | 11 | 31 | 4 | 46 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 11 |
| 2007 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 15 | 16 | 0 | 2 | 18 |
| 2008 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 17 | 26 | 1 | 2 | 29 |
| 2009 | 12 | 3 | 12 | 27 | 18 | 0 | 3 | 21 |

## Chiefs of Staff

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of accommodation for the *(a)* Chief of the Defence Staff and *(b)* Chief of the General Staff in the last 12 months. [1045]

**Gloria De Piero:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of accommodation for the Chief of the Air Staff in the last 12 months. [1050]

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of accommodation for the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff in the last 12 months. [1047]

**Mr Robathan:** An essential part of the role of the 'Chiefs' requires them to host guests in support of departmental and wider Government objectives. As a consequence, the posts are entitled to occupy Official Service Residences. The following table shows the amount of rent paid in 2008-09, the latest year for which figures are available.

| *Post* | *Rent (£)* |
|---|---|
| Chief of the Defence Staff | 19,995 |
| Vice Chief of the Defence Staff | 19,995 |
| Chief of the General Staff | 108,408 |
| Chief of the Air Staff | 49,140 |

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces are employed in the household of the Chief of the Defence Staff. [1048]

**Mr Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces are employed in the household of *(a)* the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, *(b)* the First Sea Lord and *(c)* the Chief of the Air Staff. [1061]

**Mr Robathan:** Service staff who are retained in official service residences contribute to upholding the traditions and military ethos of the armed forces. Their duties are varied and include supervision of staff, receiving of guests, as well as dining room support. The following table lists the number of armed forces personnel employed in the official service residences of the requested group:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Chief of the Defence Staff | 3 |
| Vice Chief of the Defence of Staff | 1 |
| The First Sea Lord | 4 |
| The Chief of the Air Staff | 2 |

Expenditure relating to official service residences is kept under close scrutiny. When it is practical to do so, staff from other residences are employed in support of a function to maximise use of resources.

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of staffing the outer office of the *(a)* Chief of the General Staff, *(b)* Chief of the Air Staff, *(c)* First Sea Lord, *(d)* chief of the Defence staff and *(e)* Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff. [1058]

**Mr Robathan:** An estimate of the costs to the public purse of staffing the outer offices was conducted in the autumn of 2009 and was based on a generic salary rate of the staff at that time.

The salary costs for the private office of the Chief of Defence Staff are approximately £500,000 per annum.

The Vice-Chief of the defence staff has a shared private office with the Second permanent Under-Secretary. The combined salary costs for their joint private office staff are approximately £537,000 per annum.

The private offices of the First Sea Lord, the Chief of the General Staff and Chief of the Air Staff are structured in a similar way. The salary costs for each of the private offices for this group are approximately £416,000 per annum.

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel are employed in the outer office of the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff. [1060]

**Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel are employed in the outer office of the Chief of the General Staff. [1049]

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel are employed in the outer office of the *(a)* First Sea Lord and *(b)* Chief of the Air Staff. [1039]

**Mr Robathan:** In order to minimise the staff overhead associated with each role, where possible, staff have joint responsibilities and are interchangeable. The Vice-Chief of Defence Staff shares a private office with the second permanent Under-Secretary.

The following table lists the numbers of military personnel employed in the private offices of the requested group:

| *Military personnel* | |
|---|---|
| *Private Office* | *Number* |
| Vice Chief of the Defence Staff | 6 |
| First Sea Lord | 6 |
| Chief of the General Staff | 6 |
| Chief of the Air Staff | 6 |

**Albert Owen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of the entertainment budget of the Chief of the Defence Staff in each of the last three years. [1356]

**Mr Robathan:** Official entertainment offered by the chief of the Defence staff is used to give the public a better understanding of the armed forces, to enhance professional contacts within the UK and abroad, and to promote the UK Government's wider policy interests.

Due consideration is given, at all times, to whether that official entertainment is necessary, appropriate, cost-effective and an admissible charge against the defence budget.

The total cost of entertainment of the Chief of Defence Staff in each of the last three years was:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 4,400 |
| 2008-09 | 3,600 |
| 2009-10 | 3,200 |

**Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many domestic helicopter flights were taken by the First Sea Lord in the last 12 months; [2034]

(2) how many domestic helicopter flights were taken by the Chief of the Air Staff in the last 12 months; [2053]

(3) how many domestic helicopter flights were taken by the Chief of the General Staff in the last 12 months; [2054]

(4) how many domestic helicopter flights were taken by the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff in the last 12 months. [2055]

**Sandra Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many domestic helicopter flights were taken by the Chief of the Defence Staff in the last 12 months. [1902]

**Dr Fox:** The following table lists the number of domestic helicopter flights taken by this group during the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Chief of the Defence Staff | 35 |
| Vice Chief of the Defence Staff | 22 |
| First Sea Lord | 14 |
| Chief of the General Staff | 146 |
| Chief of the Air Staff | 41 |

Visiting UK forces is an essential part of the role of the professional heads of the services. The use of helicopters maximises the number of visits that can be made. Helicopter flights also provide valuable training opportunities for aircrew.

### Defence: Procurement

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on re-evaluating existing defence procurement programmes by staff at Defence Equipment and Support in the latest year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [4349]

**Peter Luff:** Programmes handled by Defence Equipment and Support are regularly reviewed against their performance, time and cost targets. In addition, as part of the review of public spending commitments made by the last Government between 1 January 2010 and the general election, a number of projects have been re-assessed to ensure that they offer good value for money and are consistent with the Government's priorities. This was conducted as part of normal business and costs are not separately identifiable.

As part of the strategic defence and security review, defence programmes will continue to be reviewed.

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he plans to streamline the process for defence procurement overseen by Defence Equipment and Support; [4350]

(2) what changes he plans to the procedures governing defence procurement projects; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of such changes on Defence Equipment and Support at Abbey Wood. [4706]

**Peter Luff:** The Department has an ongoing acquisition reform agenda. As well as ensuring the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) establishes an affordable equipment and support programme, the reforms are designed to ensure it remains strategically aligned, affordable and achievable, including by improving internal skills, management and decision-making. The acquisition reform programme also includes issues such as refreshing Ministry of Defence's overall relationship with industry, and ensuring that acquisition supports other defence priorities such as safety and sustainable development.

We will review acquisition reform further after the SDSR completes.

### Departmental Manpower

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of people employed in jobs dependent on expenditure by his Department in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Scotland in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [4682]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence no longer compiles estimates of sub-UK employment relating to equipment and non equipment in UK industry and commerce as they do not directly support policy making or operations. The last estimates for 2007-08 were published in "UK Defence Statistics" in September 2009. As a result, the complex data analysis required to produce the underlying regional expenditure data is no longer performed. A comparable time series beyond 2007-08 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department continues to publish figures relating to MOD staff directly employed at MOD establishments and bases located across the United Kingdom. The latest available figures for 2008 and 2009 are presented in the following table:

| | *UK regular forces strength*[1] [4] | | *Civilian strength*[2] [3] [4] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *April 2008* | *April 2009* | *April 2008* | *April 2009* |
| United Kingdom | 158,660 | 162,710 | 72,900 | 70,620 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| England | 140,310 | 143,580 | 62,590 | 60,860 |
| Wales | 2,640 | 2,720 | 2,170 | 2,010 |
| Northern Ireland | 3,740 | 4,390 | 2,150 | 1,890 |
| Scotland | 11,970 | 12,020 | 5,990 | 5,860 |

[1] UK regular forces include all trained and untrained personnel and exclude Gurkhas, full-time reserve service personnel and mobilised reservists.

[2] Civilian personnel includes Trading Fund staff and exclude RFAs and LECs.

[3] Measured as full-time equivalent (FTE). FTE is a measure of the size of the work force that takes account of the fact that some people work part-time.

[4] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

### Departmental Ministerial Advisers

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many special advisers *(a)* he and *(b)* each named Minister in his Department (i) has appointed to date and (ii) plans to appoint. [306]

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* political appointments and *(b)* other personal appointments he has made since his appointment; and at what estimated annual cost to the public purse. [376]

**Dr Fox:** I refer the hon. Members to the written statement given by the Prime Minister on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 33-34WS.

### Departmental Official Residences

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any domestic properties in the gift of the Government have been allocated to the use of Ministers in his Department. [1788]

**Dr Fox:** No domestic properties in the gift of the Government have been allocated to the use of Ministers in the Department.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* equipment, *(b)* non-equipment expenditure, *(c)* service personnel and *(d)* civil personnel in (i) England, (ii) Wales, (iii) Northern Ireland, (iv) Scotland and (v) overseas in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10. [4681]

**Nick Harvey:** The Ministry of Defence no longer compiles estimates of expenditure at the sub-UK areas described in (i) to (iv) on equipment, non-equipment, or personnel costs as they do not directly support policy making or operations. The last estimates relate to 2007-08.

As a result, the complex data analysis required to produce the underlying sub-UK expenditure data is no longer performed. A comparable time series beyond 2007-08 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Numbers of MOD personnel at sub-UK level are available but the associated expenditure is no longer assembled at this level. The personnel numbers are provided in an answer I have given you today.

In relation to (v), estimates for 2008-09 are not releasable until the publication of "UK Defence Statistics" in late September 2010.

The MOD continues to report spend on procurement in the "UK Defence Statistics"

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/modintranet/UKDS/UKDS2009/ukds.html

This annual report presents the MOD procurement of goods and services in the UK broken out by industry sector and estimates of aggregate MOD equipment expenditure.

### European Defence Agency

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the chief executive of the European Defence Agency on the UK's relationship with the agency; and if he will make a statement. [4006]

**Mr Gerald Howarth** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]*: The Secretary of State for Defence has not yet had any discussions with the chief executive of the European Defence Agency (EDA). The Ministry of Defence will continue to participate in the EDA but, as part of the work on the strategic defence and security review, is reviewing all aspects of defence engagement with international institutions, including the EDA, to ensure that it matches the UK's priorities and interests.

### Navy: Officers

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers at each rank of one star and above there are in the Royal Navy. [3568]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 23 June 2010]*: As at 1 April 2010, the number of officers of one-star rank and above in the naval service, including the Royal Marines, was:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Commodore/Brigadier | 84 |
| Rear Admiral/Major General | 29 |
| Vice Admiral/Lieutenant General | 9 |
| Admiral/General | 2 |

### Red Arrows

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what forward contractual obligations for future public appearances the Red Arrows have undertaken; and what financial penalties are liable to be incurred for breach of each such contract. [3923]

**Nick Harvey:** The Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team known as the Red Arrows, does not enter into a contractual obligation to display at any event. Therefore, no financial penalties can be incurred for non-appearance at events.

**Mr Mike Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the running costs, excluding asset depreciation, of the Red Arrows were in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how much the Royal Air Force received in *(a)* sponsorship, *(b)* appearance fees and *(c)* other payments in respect of the Red Arrows in that period. [3924]

**Nick Harvey:** Officials are collating the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to answer question 376, on departmental public appointments, tabled on 27 May 2010. [3796]

**Dr Fox:** I replied to the hon. Member today.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### Trade Unions

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans the Government Equalities Office has to consult trade unions concerning deficit reduction plans. [816]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The Government Equalities Office (GEO) has already informed, in writing, the trade union representatives within the GEO about possible deficit reductions.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Afghanistan

**Mr Spellar:** To ask the Prime Minister how many journalists travelled with him on his recent flight to Afghanistan. [4191]

**The Prime Minister:** In line with established practice, all the main news organisations are invited to accompany me on official overseas visits as and when appropriate.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* underpayments were made by the Rural Payments Agency in each of the last five years. [425]

**Mr Paice** *[holding answer 2 June 2010]*: Overpayments are defined as cases where farmers received more than their entitlement—identified through post-payment corrections, inspections or queries. Underpayments are defined as all instances where farmers did not receive their full, finally calculated entitlement prior to the 30 June closure of the payment window for each scheme year.

Individual claimants may have overpayments in some years and underpayments in others, so an overall position is calculated. As at 4 June 2010 there were 3,596 farmers with an overpayment across 2005 to 2009 scheme years (England only) that are being confirmed for recovery. Overpayments below £250 per scheme year are de minimis.

All outstanding underpayments are released on confirmation as a matter of policy and are not subject to a de minimis threshold. As at 4 June 2010 there were 6,159 farmers identified as being in an underpayment position across 2005 to 2009 scheme years (England only), with 4,013 less than £1,000.

Overpayments and underpayments made by the Rural Payments Agency in each of the last five years (England only) were:

| *Scheme year* | *Overpayments* | *Underpayments* | *Number of farmers* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 18,901 | 49,708 | 68,609 |
| 2006 | 11,400 | 29,481 | 40,881 |
| 2007 | 7,596 | 10,741 | 18,337 |
| 2008 | 3,211 | 6,456 | 9,667 |
| 2009[1] | 405 | 14 | 419 |

[1] The 2009 scheme year payment window closes on 30 June; therefore this is a preliminary figure.

### Food: EU Trade

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Food Standards Agency has made representations to the European Commission to upgrade its TRACES import and export certification database to include data on foodstuffs not of animal origin. [4119]

**Anne Milton:** I have been asked to reply.

We have been advised by the Food Standards Agency that representations have not been made to the European Commission to include foodstuffs not of animal origin consignments on the trade control and expert system (TRACES) database. The current issue relating to the import of food of non-animal origin is the application of official controls to certain high risk products from certain third countries, for the purpose of public health protection. The list of countries and products requiring control is reviewed by the Commission quarterly. Where any food of non-animal origin, presents a major public health issue, then the rapid alert system for food and feed (RASFF) is used by member states. For other imported products not of animal origin, where routine official controls detect any problems, these will be reported to the Commission. Food exported from the United Kingdom should meet the requirements of European food law.

### Water Charges: VAT

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate has been made of the effect of the proposed increase in value added tax on the water bills of an average earning household in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* Newcastle Central constituency. [4820]

**Mr Gauke:** I have been asked to reply.

The supply of water to domestic properties is VAT zero-rated, and there will therefore be no impact as a result of the recently announced rise in the standard rate of VAT.

## EDUCATION

### Academies: Dudley

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with Dudley metropolitan borough council on participation in the academies programme; and if he will make a statement. [2384]

**Mr Gibb:** The Secretary of State has not held any recent discussions with Dudley metropolitan borough council about the academies programme.

### Building Schools for the Future Programme

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his review of school capital funding will be completed; and if he will make a statement. [2156]

**Mr Gibb:** In the context of the budget deficit, the Government are reviewing all expenditure. The Department has not taken any decisions on the Building Schools for the Future programme.

**Pat Glass:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he plans to change the allocation of £26 million pounds to build a new academy in North West Durham constituency under the Building Schools for the Future programme; [2454]

(2) when he expects to answer question 2454, on the Building Schools for the Future Programme, tabled on 10 June 2010. [4655]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answers 16 and 28 June 2010]:* In the context of the budget deficit, the Government are reviewing all expenditure. The Department has not taken any decision on the Building Schools for the Future programme.

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the Building Schools for the Future programme in Tamworth; and if he will make a statement. [2874]

**Mr Gibb:** In the context of the budget deficit, the Government are reviewing all expenditure. The Department has not taken any decision on the Building Schools for the Future programme.

### Building Schools for the Future Programme: Coventry

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received on the Building Schools for the Future programme from *(a)* Coventry city council, *(b)* bodies and charities in Coventry and *(c)* residents of Coventry. [3850]

**Mr Gibb** *[holding answer 23 June 2010]:* In the context of the budget deficit, the Government are reviewing all expenditure. The Department has not taken any decision on the Building Schools for the Future programme.

### Childline: Finance

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his plans are for future funding of Childline. [2440]

**Tim Loughton:** All Government spend will be reviewed as part of the spending review, announced by the Chancellor on 8 June 2010.

### Children in Care: Cheshire

**Mr Timpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were in care in the former Cheshire county council area in each of the last five years. [3540]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* The requested information is available as part of Statistical First Release: Children Looked After in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2009. This can be accessed via the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000878/index.shtml

Table LAA1 gives information on the number of looked after children aged under 18 for each local authority for the years 2005 to 2009. This can be found in the excel link titled (1st set of additional tables).

### Departmental Contracts

**Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what contracts his Department has entered into with external consultants since the Government came into office; and what the *(a)* name of the consultants, *(b)* terms of reference of the work, *(c)* monetary value of the contract and *(d)* expected date of completion of the work is in each case. [3597]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* Using the Department's resource management system to identify consultancy purchase order information no consultancy contracts were identified as having been entered into since the Government came into office (11 May 2010). However, the Department operates in a devolved manner so information on those consultancy contracts which may have been entered into but not yet recorded on the resource management system is not held centrally.

In terms of the Department's NDPBs and agencies consultancy engagements, records of these were not retained centrally prior to the introduction of the freeze on consultancy spend. However, the Department has not approved any requests for consultancy from its NDPBs or agencies since the freeze came into effect on 24 May 2010.

## Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many special advisers *(a)* he and *(b)* each named Minister in his Department (i) has appointed to date and (ii) plans to appoint. [312]

**Michael Gove:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, on 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 99W.

## Departmental Official Cars

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the use by Ministers in his Department of cars allocated from *(a)* his Department's pool and *(b)* the Government car pool which are manufactured in the UK; whether Ministers in his Department are entitled to request the use of a car manufactured in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [2411]

**Michael Gove:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport on 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 290W.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3658]

**Tim Loughton:** We are in the process of identifying potential contracts from which savings can be made through renegotiation. This activity is being undertaken by various officials throughout my Department and the number of officials varies from day to day. Therefore, an accurate number of officials working on renegotiation activities could only be provided at disproportionate costs. The amount of expenditure my department will incur in renegotiating contracts and the savings accrued will not be known until the scale of the activity is determined.

Following this preparatory work a project plan will be produced detailing the costs and benefits along with a schedule of activity. We aim to complete the savings exercise by the end of the financial year.

## Departmental Reorganisation

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* signage changes and *(b)* other measures involved in renaming his Department. [3179]

**Tim Loughton:** The cost of renaming the Department was £5,250. In addition, it cost £2,250 to update our website, £1,404 for signage and £91 for stationery with the new brand.

## Foster Care

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what level of kinship care payments are made in each local authority in England. [4370]

**Tim Loughton** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* Information about the level of kinship care payments made in each local authority in England is not collected centrally.

## Grammar Schools

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the creation of grammar school places. [3441]

**Mr Gibb:** The Government do not intend to increase the number of grammar schools.

## Schools: Anti-Semitism

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department *(a)* has taken recently and *(b)* plans to take to reduce levels of anti semitism in schools; what recent discussions Ministers and officials in his Department have had on this issue; what representations he has received on this issue since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [2910]

**Mr Gibb:** Schools are currently under statutory duties to put in place measures to prevent and tackle all forms of discrimination and bullying; and provide an environment where all pupils feel safe and are able to learn and achieve. This Government take very seriously the issue of anti-Semitism and is clear there is no place for it in ours schools.

The Department's officials will continue to attend meetings of the cross-Whitehall group on anti semitism and ensure our future plans for reforming schools and tackling bullying consider steps to reducing levels of anti semitism in schools.

## Schools: Management

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to apply its provisions to free schools. [4538]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]*: The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 will be repealed in October when the Equality Act 2010 is due to come into force and will replace all existing equality legislation. Maintained and independent schools, and academies, are all covered by the specific education provisions in the Equality Act. It is planned that free schools will be set up as academies which means that they will already be covered by the education provisions and no changes will be required.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what form the medical assessment for disability living allowance claimants to be introduced in 2013-14 will take; how much work will be required of GPs and designated medical practitioners in undertaking such assessments; whether there will be exemptions to the requirement to be so assessed; and if he will make a statement; [4786]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of changes to the level of disability living allowance proposed in the 2010 Budget on existing recipients of that allowance; and if he will make a statement. [4787]

**Maria Miller:** The Budget announced that we would introduce a new objective assessment for disability living allowance from 2013-14. The design of the new assessment is at the early stages, but will take account of experience from the introduction of the work capability assessment. We will also wish to work with a range of interested stakeholders and disabled people in developing a robust and fair approach.

In keeping with its commitment to protect people in the most vulnerable situations, Budget 2010 also announced that the Government would not be taking back the 1.5% increase that was given to disability living allowance recipients last year. Instead the rates of this benefit will be increased by the consumer prices Index in 2011 and beyond, which is the most widely recognised measure of price inflation.

### Employment and Support Allowance: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency have applied for employment and support allowance since its creation; and how many of those applications have been refused. [3306]

**Chris Grayling:** Data on the number of Employment and Support Allowance claims in Bexleyheath and Crayford are not available.

However, data are available for the London borough of Bexley local authority area, which covers Bexleyheath and Crayford. The following table presents all employment and support allowance claims received in Bexley between October 2008 and August 2009 and their outcomes. These figures exclude the small number of clerical claims where the outcome is not recorded electronically.

*Employment and support allowance claims received in Bexley between October 2008 and August 2009*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Support Group | 100 |
| Work-related Group | 200 |
| Fit for Work | 500 |
| Claim closed before assessment complete | 500 |
| In progress as at August 2009 | 100 |
| Total | 1,400 |

The Department for Work and Pensions regularly publishes official statistics on the work capability assessment. The statistics were last updated in April 2010 and published in the report "Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment: Official Statistics: April 2010", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The information is also available on the internet at the following address:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

### Energy: Prices

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Bexley, *(c)* Greater London and *(d)* England who are eligible for a rebate under the energy rebate scheme. [3308]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Under the energy rebate scheme a person will be eligible for a rebate on their electricity account if, on 26 March 2010, they or their partner were aged 70 or over and receiving only the guarantee credit element of pension credit and satisfied the electric supply criteria.

The number of households with someone aged 70 or over and receiving only the guarantee credit element of pension credit is shown in the following table. People will qualify for a rebate if they or their partner were responsible for paying the electricity bill where they live and were not on a social or discounted tariff from their electricity supplier.

| *Area* | *Number of households as at November 2009* |
|---|---|
| Bexleyheath and Crayford | 420 |
| London Borough of Bexley | 1,170 |
| Greater London | 80,120 |
| England | 324,550 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituency of claimant (Westminster). These constituencies are used for the Westminster Parliament for May 2010.
3. Household is defined here as the number of individuals or couples in receipt of Pension Credit and equates to a "benefit unit". (Since 2006 same-sex partners—civil partners and cohabiters are included in the same benefit unit.) Two individuals who are not partners but live in the same house will be counted as separate households; for example two sisters, each receiving Pension Credit in their own right, sharing a house together would be counted as two households.
4. This information is published on the Nomis website at:
www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Dewsbury

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Dewsbury constituency claimed jobseeker's allowance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [4356]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Dewsbury constituency claimed jobseeker's allowance in each of the last five years. (4356)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of persons claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for May of each of the last 5 years.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Table 1: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Dewsbury parliamentary constituency*

| *As at May each year* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 1,402 |
| 2007 | 1,405 |
| 2008 | 1,399 |
| 2009 | 2,766 |
| 2010 | 2,613 |

*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

## Pensioners: Poverty

**Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of pensioners living in poverty in Wales. [3458]

**Steve Webb:** We will restore the earnings link for the basic state pension from April 2011, with a 'triple guarantee' that pensions are raised by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%. We will also protect key benefits for older people such as the winter fuel payment, free television licences, free bus travel, and free eye tests and prescriptions.

We want to ensure that older people receive the help that they are entitled to. We aim to simplify the benefit system and as a first step we will be looking to conduct a research study into the feasibility of using existing data to help to improve the take-up of pension credit.

We will help prevent people from falling into poverty in later life by simplifying the rules and regulations relating to pensions to help reinvigorate occupational pensions. We will encourage companies to offer high-quality pensions to all employees and will work with businesses and the industry to support auto enrolment.

## Poverty: Children

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children living in poverty, reckoning in the proposed increase in value added tax, *(a)* before housing costs and *(b)* after housing costs in each year to 2014-15. [4644]

**Maria Miller:** The Budget announced a package of reforms to: support low and middle-income earners; tackle welfare dependency and unaffordable spending; and support the most vulnerable. This included measures to better target support on low income families including increase in the personal tax allowance and a £2 billion above indexation increase in the child tax credit.

The Budget protects poor families and will have no measurable impact on child poverty in the next two years. The increase in value-added tax will have no impact on children in relative low income poverty as value-added tax is a tax on expenditure and not on income.

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children in measured income poverty *(a)* before housing costs and *(b)* after housing costs in each year to 2014-15. [4645]

**Maria Miller:** The Budget announced a package of reforms to: support low and middle-income earners; tackle welfare dependency and unaffordable spending; and support the most vulnerable. Measures announced in the Budget will have no significant negative impact on child poverty in the next two years.

For example, some of the savings from the freeze on child benefit, will be recycled to increase the child tax credit by an additional £150 above indexation in 2011-12 and £60 above indexation in 2012-13 enhancing support for low-income families.

Section 14 of the coalition document confirms the Government's commitment to ending child poverty in the UK.

The Child Poverty Act commits Government to meeting targets towards ending child poverty by 2020, and to publishing a strategy to show how it will meet these targets by March 2011.

We will develop a robust strategy which tackles the root causes of poverty. It is only by doing this that we can effectively improve the outcomes for children in a sustainable way.

The Government's strategy will focus on all aspects of child poverty. The right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) has been asked to lead a review into poverty, including how to measure and make progress on non-financial elements of poverty.

## Social Security Benefits: Disability

**Ms Angela Eagle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Financial Statement of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 116-30, what estimate he has made of the savings arising from each measure announced in respect of each disability benefit in the next five years. [4502]

**Maria Miller:** The available information is in the following tables.

*Impact of changes to uprating of disability benefits*

*£ million, nominal*

| | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Disability Living Allowance | 15 | -90 | -240 | -420 |
| Attendance Allowance | 5 | -40 | -105 | -180 |
| Incapacity Benefit | -75 | -80 | -95 | 0 |
| Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related) | -35 | -50 | -75 | -105 |

*Impact of changes to uprating of disability benefits*

*£ million, nominal*

| | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* | *2014-15* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Employment and Support Allowance (Contribution Based) | -35 | -50 | -75 | -210 |
| Severe Disablement Allowance | -15 | -15 | -20 | -25 |
| Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit | 0 | -5 | -15 | -25 |
| Income Support (Sick and Disabled) | -70 | -65 | -55 | -25 |
| Total | -205 | -400 | -680 | -990 |

*Notes:*

1. The estimates cover the impact of: (a) not reducing uprating in April 2011 by the 1.5% that was paid from April 2010, which had been assumed in previous plans to be clawed back; and (b) changing the price index for uprating from the Retail Prices Index or the Rossi index to the Consumer Prices Index with effect from the April 2011 uprating.
2. Full estimates of savings are only available up to 2014-15 at present.
3. Estimates are consistent with Economic Assumptions from Budget 22 June 2010.
4. The forecast assumes that the planned reassessment of people on incapacity benefits will be completed by March 2014.
5. Figures are shown to the nearest £5 million and therefore may not sum due to rounding.
6. Figures are for Great Britain only.

*Source:*

DWP calculations.

*Savings from reform of disability living allowance assessment.*

*£ million, nominal*

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| 2011-12 | — |
| 2012-13 | — |
| 2013-14 | -350 |
| 2014-15 | -1,040 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are for Great Britain only.
2. Estimates of savings are only available up to 2014-15 at present.

*Source:*

DWP calculations

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review. [3637]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change is currently analysing all contracts with its top 100 suppliers (by value). On completion of this exercise a strategy will be developed to determine which contracts can be renegotiated. As this exercise is still ongoing there are no figures available for contracts under review.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3659]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change is currently analysing all contracts with its top 100 suppliers (by value). On completion of this exercise a strategy will be developed to determine which contracts can be renegotiated. Therefore at the present time it cannot be determined how many DECC officials will be working on renegotiating contracts and what cost savings are expected. Any renegotiation work is expected to be handled by existing contract mangers. At this stage it is not possible to determine when contract renegotiations will be complete.

### Energy Subsidy Reform

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contribution his Department made to the Joint Report of the International Energy Authority, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank on energy subsidy reform. [4686]

**Charles Hendry:** The report was commissioned by the G20 at the Pittsburgh Summit and was produced independently by the international organisations.

### Energy: Billing

**Mr Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of the average household energy bill attributable to contributions for production subsidies. [4374]

**Charles Hendry** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* The only subsidy for the production of electricity generation capacity currently reflected in energy bills is the renewables obligation, which Ofgem estimates to account for 3% of current average household electricity bills.

### Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to take steps to increase the amount of information available to the public about the safety of nuclear waste disposal. [4777]

**Charles Hendry:** Detailed information about the safety of nuclear waste disposal is already publicly available and the Government are committed to maintaining this position and making such information as openly available and accessible as possible. The Department is currently considering how it can provide increased visibility of the programme to implement geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste including the possibility of a published timeline and milestones.

Following nearly three years of extensive consideration, the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) gathered and published sufficient evidence to include geological disposal of higher activity waste as the key element of their package of recommendations to Government in 2006. Geological disposal is internationally recognised as the preferred approach to deal with higher activity waste and is being adopted in many countries as well as being supported by a number of UK learned societies including the Royal Society, the Geological Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry. Detailed information from CoRWM's consideration of the options is available at:

www.corwm.org.uk/Pages/Lnk_pages/key_issues.aspx#recommendations

In setting out how geological disposal will be implemented, the Department has set up a dedicated website:

http://mrws.decc.gov.uk/

which provides, or links to, information at various levels of detail and which is intended to be accessible and helpful to people from non-technical backgrounds through to experts. This includes links to waste management organisations in other countries who are tackling similar issues and to international expert bodies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has been given responsibility for implementing geological disposal and will shortly be publishing "Geological Disposal: Steps towards implementation" setting out the preparatory work already undertaken, as well as explaining how the outputs of its work programme are designed to achieve a safe, secure, sustainable and publicly acceptable outcome. This will be available at:

www.nda.gov.uk/aboutus/geological-disposal/index.cfm

A geological disposal facility will be regulated by the statutory regulators, who are working together to make sure that any future facility meets the required high standards for environmental protection, safety, security, waste management and radioactive waste transportation. Information on this is available from their joint website at:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/111766.aspx

In 2009, following public consultation, the environment agencies also published extensive guidance for geological and near-surface disposal facilities for radioactive waste and this is available at:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/99322.aspx

### Renewable Energy

**Emily Thornberry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to encourage the use of energy from renewable heat sources. [4266]

**Gregory Barker:** The Government are committed to increasing the amount of renewable heat in the UK; this is a crucial part of ensuring we meet our renewables targets, cutting carbon and ensuring energy security.

We are currently looking at the renewable heat incentive (RHI) proposals. Clearly there are benefits to the scheme, but we must also consider the impact of the costs, particularly given the financial constraints we must work within and the potential impact that funding options could have on vulnerable people.

We are aware that there is uncertainty in the renewable heating industry and want to provide certainty and clarity as quickly as possible, but must make sure that we make the right decision.

We will look to make an announcement on the future of the proposed scheme as soon as possible.

### Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on expanding feed-in tariffs to include electricity generated from biomass. [3786]

**Charles Hendry:** Eligibility within FITs will be considered when the scheme is reviewed. Periodic reviews of the FITs scheme will be timed to coincide with the renewables obligation reviews, the first of which would see changes implemented in 2013.

Biomass will continue to be eligible to receive support through the renewables obligation at all levels.

### Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement of 24 May 2010 and pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 69W on public expenditure, Wales, which of his Department's non-devolved public expenditure savings will be incurred in Wales; and what estimate he has made of the likely financial savings. [2968]

**Gregory Barker:** While it is possible that some of the savings announced will have an impact in Wales, it is not possible at this stage to specify reductions to DECC programmes or delivery bodies' budgets that will directly affect Wales.

In particular, the Department is still reviewing precisely which activities it will stop or scale back under its national Environmental Transformation Fund and its Low Carbon Investment Funding.

## JUSTICE

### Prison Sentences: Wales

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many residents of *(a)* Wrexham and *(b)* North Wales served custodial sentences of six months or fewer in the last three years for which figures are available; [4270]

(2) how many residents of *(a)* Wrexham and *(b)* North Wales served custodial sentences in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [4271]

**Mr Blunt:** Data are published annually on the number of offenders released from prison having served custodial sentences, most recently data for 2008 which was published on the Ministry of Justice website in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008 under the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

However, information on offenders' home addresses is not routinely recorded on the data held centrally, and could be provided only through manual checking of prisoner records at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of discharges from determinate and life sentences from prisons in England and Wales in each year from 2006 to 2008. Data for 2009 will be published in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009 on 22 July 2010.

*Number*

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Up to and including six months | 44,000 | 45,100 | 51,300 |
| Over six months and up to and including 12 months | 8,200 | 8,700 | 9,800 |
| 12 months and less than four years | 23,300 | 23,600 | 25,300 |

| | | | *Number* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Four years and less than life | 6,900 | 8,100 | 8,600 |
| Lifers | 135 | 146 | 138 |

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## TREASURY

### Bank Services: Fees and Charges

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with the Office of Fair Trading and the Financial Services Authority on a framework for bank charges since 2009. [4878]

**Mr Hoban:** The Treasury has regular meetings and discussions with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and Financial Services Authority (FSA) on bank charges as part of the process of policy development.

The Government stated in the coalition agreement that

> "we will introduce stronger consumer protections, including measures to end unfair bank and financial transaction charges."

We are considering how best to implement this commitment and will bring forward proposals, in consultation with OFT and FSA, in due course.

### Capital Investment: Redcar

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much public sector capital funding his Department allocated to Redcar constituency in each of the last five years. [4689]

**Danny Alexander:** Monitoring of capital expenditure at a constituency level is not undertaken centrally.

For the North East region, capital expenditure for the last five years is as follows:

*North East England*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,230 |
| 2005-06 | 1,477 |
| 2006-07 | 1,542 |
| 2007-08 | 1,583 |
| 2008-09 | 2,028 |

### Child Tax Credit

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families are in receipt of the baby element of tax credits *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Newcastle North constituency. [4735]

**Mr Gauke:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Table 1: Number of families receiving the baby element of tax credits in (a) England and (b) Newcastle-upon-Tyne North constituency*

| | | *Thousand* |
|---|---|---|
| | *All out of work* | *All in work* |
| England | 129.8 | 275.8 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne North | 0.2 | 0.5 |

These estimates are based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about this data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

### Child Tax Credit: Scotland

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire Council area and *(c)* Scotland claim child tax credit. [4332]

**Mr Gauke:** The latest information on the number of families with children benefiting from child and working tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2010", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr2010.pdf

### Child Trust Fund: Hartlepool

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child trust fund accounts at the *(a)* standard and *(b)* higher rate have been opened in Hartlepool constituency in each year since the inception of the fund; and how much the Exchequer has contributed to those accounts to date. [3234]

**Mr Hoban:** Statistical information about child trust funds is published on HM Revenue and Customs' website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Government *(a)* cars and *(b)* drivers are allocated to Ministers in his Department. [295]

**Justine Greening:** All Treasury Ministers except the Chancellor (for security reasons) have cancelled their allocated ministerial cars and drivers, following expiry of the contracted notice periods. Prior to May 2010, HM Treasury had contracts for six cars for Ministers (including the Chancellor) to be provided by the Government Car and Dispatch Agency, with five drivers.

The new Ministerial Code, published on 21 May 2010, contains changes that affect Ministerial entitlement to travel by Government car. It states that

> "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed".

The Department for Transport and its Government Car and Despatch Agency are working with Departments to effect the transition to the new arrangements.

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* make, *(b)* model and *(c)* place of manufacture is of the car allocated for the use of each Minister in his Department. [1481]

**Justine Greening:** The Treasury inherited six cars from the previous Government allocated to its Ministers. The cars comprise two Honda Civic ES Hybrid manufactured in Japan, two Toyota Prius T3 Hybrid made in Japan, one Vauxhall Vectra Design CDTi made in Germany and one Jaguar XJ TDVi Sovereign made in the United Kingdom.

These arrangements are changing following the publication of the new Ministerial Code which contains changes that affect ministerial entitlement to travel by Government car. The code states that

> "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations."

The expectation is that Ministers not in the Cabinet will use the Government Car Service Pool and Cabinet Ministers who have an allocated car will consider how that car might be utilised by other Ministers within the Department before calls are made on the pool.

## Energy: Subsidies

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the outcomes were of his discussions with G20 counterparts at the recent meeting on energy subsidy reform; [4624]

(2) what contribution his Department made to the Joint Report of the International Energy Authority, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank on energy subsidy reform. [4685]

**Justine Greening:** The Chancellor attended a meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in Korea on 4-5 June 2010. At that meeting they welcomed the strategies and timetables provided by many G20 members for phasing out and rationalising inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption. They also received a draft report on the scope of energy subsidies and suggestions for implementing the G20 commitment made at the Pittsburgh Summit. The report was produced independently by the International Energy Agency, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank.

## Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

**Mr Woolas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 51-52WS, on Equitable Life, what progress he has made on his plans to make fair and transparent payments to Equitable Life policyholders, through an independently designed payment scheme; and if he will make a statement. [4510]

**Mr Hoban:** Sir John Chadwick is advising the Treasury on the relative losses suffered by Equitable Life policyholders in relation to those accepted cases of maladministration resulting in injustice. He will submit his report by mid-July.

At that time, the Government will publish Sir John's report alongside a detailed update on the next steps towards implementing an independently designed payment scheme.

## Green Investment Bank

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria will apply for *(a)* companies and *(b)* projects to be eligible to receive support from the planned Green Investment Bank. [4746]

**Justine Greening:** As announced in the Budget, the Government are considering a wide range of options for the scope and structure of the Green Investment Bank. We will put forward detailed proposals following the spending review.

## Income Tax: Tax Allowances

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the income tax personal allowance will be for those aged over 65 years who are in employment in 2011-12. [4837]

**Mr Gauke:** This Government will announce the amount of the personal allowances for those aged 65 and over for 2011-12 in the autumn, when September's inflation figures are known.

## Income Tax: Weaver Vale

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an estimate of the number of people resident in Weaver Vale constituency who will no longer pay income tax consequent on the proposed increase in the personal allowance from April 2011. [4347]

**Mr Gauke:** A total of 880,000 individuals are estimated to be taken out of income tax. However, the information requested is not available at parliamentary constituency level due to small survey sample sizes at this level of geography, and because the information is based on 2007-08 survey data which would not be reliable for this purpose.

Available information on incomes and tax by parliamentary constituency based on the latest available Survey of Personal Incomes (2007-08) can be found in Table 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income distribution/menu.htm

## Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander: Isle of Man

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Government of the Isle of Man and *(b)* the Isle of Man regulator on the repayment to UK depositors of savings placed with the Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Bank; and if he will make a statement. [4573]

**Mr Hoban:** Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man (KSF IoM) is a subsidiary of the Icelandic parent company Kaupthing Bank hf and is incorporated in the Isle of Man. As such, oversight of KSF IoM was the responsibility of the Isle of Man's Financial Supervision Commission and therefore compensation arrangements for retail depositors in KSF IoM are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Personal Savings

**Gregg McClymont:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he intends to take to encourage the providers of cash ISA products to provide a more responsive service to consumers wishing to switch their *(a)* product and *(b)* provider; and if he will make a statement. [4908]

**Mr Hoban:** Over 17 million people now hold cash ISAs and it is important that they are simple, transparent, competitive and flexible.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) have today issued a response to the Consumer Focus "super-complaint" on the market for cash ISAs, including on the time taken for transfers to take place.

The Government welcome the OFT's report and the commitment from the ISA industry to reduce the time limits for cash ISA transfers in its guidance.

The Government also accept all of the OFT's recommendations for them to act. The Government will include the reduced time limits for cash ISA transfers in HM Revenue and Customs guidance, and will also consider changing the ISA regulations to reflect this.

### Poverty: Children

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on levels of child poverty of the measures announced in his recent Budget in each of the next five years. [4295]

**Justine Greening** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* This Government are committed to transparency and for the first time have published estimates of the distributional impact of announced tax and benefit measures at Budget 2010, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

The Budget announced a package of reforms to support low and middle-income earners, tackle welfare dependency and unaffordable spending and support the most vulnerable. This included measures to better target support to low-income families including an above-indexation increase in the child tax credit. The Budget will have no measurable impact on child poverty in the next two years.

The Government's strategy will focus on all aspects of child poverty. The right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) been asked to lead a review into poverty, including how to measure and make progress on non-financial elements of poverty.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed freeze on child benefit on the likelihood of achieving Government's objective to end child poverty by 2020. [4676]

**Justine Greening:** The Budget had twin aims: to reduce the deficit in a fair manner, and to ensure that the most vulnerable were protected. At Budget, the Government chose to freeze child benefit for three years, while ensuring better targeted support to low-income families by increasing the child element of the child tax credit by £150 in 2011-12 with a further £60 in 2012-13. These increases will happen over and above indexation. The freeze in child benefit is part of the overall Budget package and any assessment made refers to the package as a whole. As a result of all Budget measures, there is no overall measurable impact on child poverty for the next two years.

The Government are committed to eradicating child poverty by 2020, and will set out its strategy to do so before end of March 2011.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the 2010 Budget what assessment he has made of the likely effects of his proposals on the likelihood of achieving Government's objective to end child poverty by 2020. [4677]

**Justine Greening:** The Budget had twin aims: to reduce the deficit in a fair manner, and to ensure that the most vulnerable were protected. This included measures to better target support on low income families including an above indexation increase in the child tax credit by £150 in 2011-12, and a further £60 in 2012-13. The Budget will have no measurable impact on child poverty in the next two years.

### Pregnant Women: Grants

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire council area and *(c)* Scotland had received health in pregnancy grants on the latest date for which figures are available. [4336]

**Justine Greening:** Geographical analysis of the number of people benefiting from the health in pregnancy grant has not previously been undertaken, and therefore this information is only available at disproportionate cost.

### Public Expenditure: Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on implementing the recommendation of the Independent Commission on Funding and Finance for Wales that the Government produce an annual publication enabling comparisons between Welsh Assembly Government expenditure under the Barnett Formula and equivalent expenditure in England. [4396]

**Danny Alexander:** The Government note the recommendations of the first report of the Independent Commission on Funding and Finance for Wales and look forward to the Commission's final report. Figures for the country and regional breakdown of public spending are published in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA).

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* population ratios, *(b)* comparability factors and *(c)* calculations underpinthe consequential changes to the funding of the National Assembly for Wales announced on 22 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [4397]

**Danny Alexander:** In relation to changes to the funding of the National Assembly for Wales announced on 22 June 2010, the recycled savings announced on 24 May 2010 were adjusted to reflect changes in business rate relief announced in the Budget. There was a reduction in the recycled savings for the Welsh Assembly Government in 2010-11 of £1.5 million. This was calculated using the Barnett Formula in the normal way. Details of the Barnett Formula, including details of the population figures and comparability factors, are published in the Statement of Funding policy.

The Welsh Assembly Government's budget for the spending review period will be published at the end of the spending review.

### Public Expenditure: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much public sector capital funding was provided in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [4358]

**Danny Alexander:** Capital expenditure for Yorkshire and Humber in each of the last five years was as follows:

*Yorkshire and Humber*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 2,196 |
| 2005-06 | 2,537 |
| 2006-07 | 2,807 |
| 2007-08 | 2,890 |
| 2008-09 | 3,419 |

Monitoring of capital expenditure at a constituency level is not undertaken centrally.

### Public Finance

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statement of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1040-1, on public spending, what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and cost of redundancies and *(b)* costs incurred by the cancellation of contracts consequent on the cancellation of the 12 projects. [3983]

**Danny Alexander:** The operational impact of these decisions is a matter for Departments. There may be some costs incurred and some impact on jobs by cancelling these projects. However, by cancelling the projects at this stage the Government are reducing spending pressures, enabling them to reduce the deficit as quickly as possible. The 12 projects cancelled on 17 June have a lifetime cost of £2 billion which will now not be spent. The 12 projects that have been cancelled carried costs of £491 million in 2010-11.

**Liz Kendall:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the 2010 Spending Review, what mechanism he intends to use to determine whether capital projects produce a significant economic return. [4639]

**Danny Alexander:** The Chancellor has announced that the Government will conduct a Spending Review, concluding on 20 October 2010. As part of this, Government Departments have been asked to undertake a fundamental review of all capital spending plans to identify the areas that will achieve the greatest economic return. The Green Book sets out the methodology for investment appraisal in central Government projects.

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanism his Department plans to use to assess capital investment projects in the 2010 Spending Review. [4653]

**Danny Alexander:** The Chancellor has announced that the Government will conduct a Spending Review, concluding on 20 October 2010. As part of this, Government Departments have been asked to undertake a fundamental review of all capital spending plans to identify the areas that will achieve the greatest economic return. The Green Book sets out the methodology for investment appraisal in central Government projects. The emergency Budget announced no further cuts in capital spending totals beyond those announced as part of the £6.2 billion of savings in 2010-11.

### Research and Development Tax Credit

**Nic Dakin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the future of research and development tax credits for business; and if he will make a statement. [4509]

**Mr Gauke:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget statement that the Government will consult with business in autumn 2010 to review the taxation of intellectual property, the support R&D tax credits provide for innovation and the proposals of the Dyson Review.

### Revenue and Customs: Manpower

**Mr Gray:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were on the payroll of HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors on *(a)* 1 May 1990, *(b)* 1 May 2000 and *(c)* the most recent date for which figures are available. [4508]

**Mr Gauke:** The number of staff in HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor departments (HM Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue) at 1 April 1990, 1 April 2000 and 31 May 2010 are shown in the following table. Figures are not available for 1 May 1990 and 1 May 2000.

*Number*

| | *Customs and Excise* | | *Inland Revenue* | | *Total/HMRC* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *HC* | *FTE* | *HC* | *FTE* | *HC* | *FTE* |
| 1 April 1990 | 26,864 | — | 66,063 | | 92,927 | — |
| 1 April 2000 | 22,640 | 21,910 | 66,870 | 62,460 | 89,510 | 84,370 |

*Number*

| | *Customs and Excise* | | *Inland Revenue* | | *Total HMRC* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *HC* | *FTE* | *HC* | *FTE* | *HC* | *FTE* |
| 31 May 2010 | — | — | — | — | 75,803 | 68,676 |

HC = Headcount. FTE = Full-time equivalent. Separate figures for headcount and FTE were not reported for 1990.

*Source:*

These data are sourced from the statistics archive on the civil service website: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/stats-archive/archived-reports.aspx

**Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* Protestant, *(b)* Roman Catholic and *(c)* non-determined appointees there were in HM Revenue and Customs offices in Northern Ireland in 2009. [4528]

**Mr Gauke:** The numbers of appointees to HM Revenue and Customs in 2009, broken down by Protestant, Roman Catholic and non-determined is as follows:

Protestant: 9

Roman Catholic: 8

Non-determined: 3.

### Sheffield Forgemasters: Finance

**Angela Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has received from private sector companies on the decision not to proceed with the loan proposal for Sheffield Forgemasters. [4523]

**Danny Alexander:** To the best of my knowledge, the Department has not received any representations from private sector companies on the decision not to proceed with this loan.

### Tax Allowances

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of his Budget proposals for marginal tax rates on the distribution of personal incomes. [4680]

**Mr Gauke:** Budget 2010 made no announcements on income tax rates. Budget 2010 Chapter 2 provided a detailed analysis of the impact of Budget tax and welfare changes on household incomes and marginal deduction rates.

### Taxation: Aviation

**Gregg McClymont:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to introduce value added tax on aircraft fuel. [4559]

**Mr Gauke:** In accordance with international agreements VAT is not charged on fuel used by aircraft operating on international routes. However, even if VAT were applied to such supplies airlines could recover the VAT charged, as input VAT, in the normal way.

### Taxation: Business

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire council area and *(c)* Scotland had used the Time to Pay programme on the latest date for which figures are available. [4334]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC collates information on the number and value of Time to Pay arrangements granted through the Business Payment Support Service (BPSS).

Data on the number of businesses using the service are not readily available at constituency or local authority level. At any point in time a business may have more than one arrangement covering its different tax liabilities. A business may be granted a number of successive arrangements.

Following contact with the BPSS between 24 November 2008 and 20 June 2010:

320 arrangements spreading payments covering tax debts worth £5.4 million have been granted to businesses within the parliamentary constituency of Rutherglen and Hamilton West;

1,460 arrangements spreading payments covering tax debts worth £24 million have been granted to businesses within the South Lanarkshire council area;

20,400 arrangements spreading payments covering tax debts worth £340 million have been granted to businesses within Scotland.

### Taxation: Probate

**Richard Fuller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on contesting the payment of taxes with probate executors in 2009. [4617]

**Mr Gauke:** The information requested is not available, as HMRC's systems do not capture information specifically in respect of work involving probate executors.

### VAT

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effects on the number of jobs of the proposed change to the rate of value added tax. [4656]

**Mr Gauke:** To continue with the previous Government's fiscal plans would put the recovery and jobs at risk.

By acting now, the Government have reduced the risk of adverse market conditions, which would mean higher interest rates for all, stifle recovery and make the challenges ahead even harder. Raising the standard rate of VAT is an important element of the Government's fiscal consolidation plans.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts that unemployment will come down from 8.1% this year, falling in every year to 6.1% in 2015. In producing its forecasts, the OBR has considered the employment impacts of the announced consolidation as a whole.

### VAT: Great Yarmouth

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Great Yarmouth were registered for value added tax in each of the last five years. [4401]

**Mr Gauke:** The existing population of VAT registered businesses and the number of businesses that registered for VAT during the year, for years since 2003, is shown for Great Yarmouth in the following table.

| | *Start of year stock* | *Registrations during year* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 2,325 | 230 |
| 2004 | 2,360 | 195 |
| 2005 | 2,385 | 200 |
| 2006 | 2,400 | 210 |
| 2007 | 2,440 | 200 |
| 2008 | 2,485 | — |

These figures came from the report "Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations", published by The Department for Businesses Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in November 2008. This report is no longer published.

## Working Tax Credit

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in *(a)* Newcastle North constituency and *(b)* the UK are in receipt of the child care element of tax credits; and how many of those earn a joint household income of *(a)* less than £20,000, *(b)* between £20,000 and £24,999, *(c)* between £25,000 and £29,999, *(d)* between £30,000 and £34,999, *(e)* between £35,000 and £39,999 and *(f)* £40,000 or more. [4714]

**Mr Gauke:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Table 1: Number of families benefiting from the child care element of tax credits in the Newcastle North constituency*

| *Current year joint household income* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Less than £20,000 | 400 |
| £20,000-£24,999 | 60 |
| £25,000-£29,999 | 70 |
| Over £30,000 | 70 |
| All families | 600 |

The income bands over £30,000 have been combined because the numbers in the individual categories would be disclosive.

*Table 2: Number of families benefiting from the child care element of tax credits in the UK*

| *Current year joint household income* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Less than £20,000 | 302,200 |
| £20,000-£24,999 | 56,700 |
| £25,000-£29,999 | 51,900 |
| £30,000-£34,999 | 37,000 |
| £35000-£40000 | 21,200 |
| Over £40,000 | 19,800 |
| All families | 488,800 |

These estimates are based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about this data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Community Policing

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of neighbourhood policing teams which will be affected by the reduction in police funding for 2010-11. [4138]

**Mrs May** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* The Government supports neighbourhood policing and are committed to ensuring that all communities receive a high quality policing service that meets local priorities. It is for police authorities and forces to decide how many neighbourhood policing teams communities need and where to deploy them. I am confident that the police should be able to maintain front-line services while making the savings required for their contribution towards the in-year budget cuts.

### Crime

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the change has been in the number of incidents of *(a)* violent crime, *(b)* burglary, *(c)* theft and *(d)* domestic violence between 1997 and the latest date for which information is available. [1993]

**Mrs May** *[holding answer 14 June 2010]:* There are two main sources of official statistics on trends in crime; the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime. Both sets of statistics have different strengths and weaknesses and provide an incomplete picture about the level of offending.

Statistics on the number of incidents of violent crime, burglary, theft and domestic violence from the two sources are published annually in the Home Office statistical bulletin Crime in England and Wales, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

**Mr Spencer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the level of public confidence in published crime statistics. [3821]

**James Brokenshire** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 145W.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which elements of the proposed £82 million savings announced to the budgets of her Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies were contained in the £346 million savings to her Department's budget announced in the most recent budget statement. [2431]

**Mrs May** *[holding answer 15 June 2010]:* Due to the poor state of the public finances, this Government have decided to take urgent and radical action in 2010-11 to save £82 million from the budgets of the National Police Improvement Agency, Serious Organised Crime Agency, Identity and Passport Service, Government Equalities Office and Government Office London.

None of the proposed Home Office efficiency savings announced in the March 2010 Budget statement were due to result in reduced budgets in 2010-11.

### Passports: Biometrics

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on halting the second generation of biometric passports after 2012. [4134]

**Mrs May** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]*: The work to introduce fingerprint biometrics in passports from 2012 has been halted. However, we will continue to maintain the integrity and security of our passports through other security features including facial image biometrics contained in a chip in the passport.

### Speed Limits: Cameras

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much accrued to the Consolidated Fund from the payment of penalties issued on the basis of evidence from speed cameras in each year since 2007. [4188]

**James Brokenshire:** The fixed penalty for a speeding offence is £60. Following the ending of the National Safety Camera Funding Scheme, all such income, whether or not the offence was detected by camera, goes to the Consolidated Fund.

Information on the amount that has accrued to the Consolidated Fund from speeding offences detected by camera cannot be identified separately. Data on the number of fixed penalties issued and paid per year for all motoring offences and separately on all speeding offences detected by camera are collected centrally and published as part of National Statistics. These are outlined in detail within Chapter 3 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin: 'Police Powers and Procedures'. Sections 3.3 and 3.4 deal respectively with fixed penalty notices generally and notices issued on the basis of speed camera evidence respectively. The latest publication outlines data for the financial year 2008-09 as well as making reference to historical data.

A copy of the publication is available from the Library of the House. A link to the publication online is provided for the Member's convenience. The relevant tables from the publication are also provided with this answer.

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0610.pdf

*Table 3c: Fixed penalty notices by result—percentage paid, fine registered, etc, England and Wales*

| | | | | | | | | | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Result* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
| Penalty paid | 79 | 80 | 82 | 84 | 87 | 88 | 90 | 89 | 90 | 89 |
| No further action | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Fine registered | 13 | 12 | 13 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| Referred for court proceedings | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Total notices dealt with (thousand)[2] | 3,089 | 2,984 | 2,897 | 2,866 | 3,506 | 3,377 | 3,281 | 3,047 | 2,613 | 2,299 |

*Table 3e: Fixed penalties notices (FPNs)[1] for speeding offences detected by cameras, England and Wales*

| | *Number (Thousand)* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 599 |
| 2001 | 878 |
| 2002 | 1,135 |
| 2003 | 1,670 |
| 2004 | 1,787 |
| 2005 | 1,764 |
| 2006 | 1,634 |
| 2007 | 1,260 |
| 2008 | 1,028 |

[1] Includes only FPNs issued and paid. Where penalties are not paid and are referred to court, they are no longer recorded as FPNs.

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many notices of intended prosecution have been issued for speeding in a speed camera site area in each year since 2007. [4189]

**James Brokenshire:** The information requested is not available.

The Home Office collects data on the number of fixed penalty notices issued and paid, for speed limit offences in England and Wales involving the use the use of any camera device. There were 1.26 million such notices in 2007 and 1.03 million notices in 2008.

Data are also collected for number of fixed penalty notices issued for total motoring offences by final disposal (including referrals for court proceedings). However these data, as provided to the Home Office, cannot be broken down by type of offence or whether a speed camera was involved.

### Theft: Electronic Equipment

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to prevent young people carrying electronic devices from being targeted by street criminals. [4198]

**James Brokenshire:** Where street robbery is a problem at a local level, it is the responsibility of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which includes the local police force, to tackle this. Local agencies have been given the autonomy to respond as appropriate, prioritising their resources to target those issues of most importance locally. Where robbery has been a problem, areas have analysed victim and perpetrator profiles as well as locations, and developed responses to specific issues such as youth on youth robberies or robberies associated with the night time economy. Other success factors include improved joint tasking and working between the police and key partners, CCTV and targeted crime prevention advice, such as poster campaigns.

Mobile phones are commonly taken during robberies and other personal thefts. The National Mobile Phone Crime Unit, part funded by the Home Office, tackles mobile phone theft through working with the mobile phone industry on phone security and disabling stolen phones. They also provide a resource for local police forces by providing expert training and advice on individual cases, and through the provision of the National Mobile Phone Register where police can quickly check if a phone is stolen.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Armed Conflict: Diamonds

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his EU counterparts the level of compliance of conditions in the Marange diamond fields with the terms of the Kimberley Process certification scheme; and if he will make a statement. [4307]

**Mr Bellingham:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with EU counterparts. Ministers will be considering the UK's position following the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KP) Intersessional in Tel Aviv on 21 to 23 June 2010, at which the issue of Zimbabwe diamond exports was extensively discussed.

We are disappointed that agreement could not be reached at the Kimberley Process Intersessional meeting on the export of Zimbabwe diamonds. The UK remains fully committed to working with the European Commission to ensure that all KP participants, including Zimbabwe, comply with KP requirements.

### European Parliament

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 37W, on the European Parliament, what further steps he plans to take to raise the question of the European Parliament's seat in Strasbourg. [4862]

**Mr Lidington:** I intend to build support amongst my counterparts across the EU where possible.

### Kyrgyzstan: Violence

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the security situation in the Kyrgyz Republic, with particular reference to ethnic violence; and if he will make a statement. [4602]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We are deeply concerned by the recent events in Kyrgyzstan. The situation on the ground remains extremely fragile. The UK co-sponsored a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council on 18 June that called for a transparent investigation into the events of April and the recent inter-ethnic violence, and urged the Kyrgyz authorities to promote inter-ethnic reconciliation.

We and our EU partners have underlined the importance of pursuing the political process to build democratic institutions in Kyrgyzstan, notably through the referendum on a new constitution that took place on 27 June and through parliamentary elections later this year. This process represents the best chance to ensure peace, institutional stability, open dialogue, rule of law and democracy for the people of Kyrgyzstan. We are pleased that the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights issued a positive initial assessment of the referendum. This represents an important step in the long path towards normalisation in Kyrgyzstan.

We shall continue to monitor developments closely.

### Languages: GCSE

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 355W, on EU institutions, if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Education proposals to increase the number of secondary school pupils studying for a modern European language GCSE. [4623]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and I recognise the importance of school pupils learning foreign languages, including modern European languages. The Government have announced that there will be a review of the National Curriculum, including language learning. There will be an announcement concerning the detail of the review in due course.

### Languages: Higher Education

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 355W, on EU institutions, if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills proposals to increase the modern European language skills of students in British universities. [4622]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and I recognise the importance of students pursuing modern European language studies. It is important that higher education institutions offer the widest variety of good quality courses to students, including a range of modern European languages. The Government-funded "Routes into Languages" programme works to stimulate demand for language learning in every region of England.

### Palestinians: International Assistance

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his Israeli counterpart on the cases of three British citizens on the Gaza aid flotilla who were taken into custody and whose UK passports have not been returned; and whether he has taken steps to seek to secure the return from the Israeli authorities of the possessions of other British citizens on that flotilla. [4398]

**Alistair Burt:** I have raised these specific issues with Israel's ambassador to the UK. Our ambassador to Israel and other members of the British embassy in Tel Aviv have also raised the matter on a number of occasions with the Israeli authorities. It has also been raised by the EU presidency, on behalf of EU Heads of Mission, with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I can confirm we have received all three missing passports which will be returned to the holders. We, and the EU, have also been informed by the Israelis that all the personal belongings have now been sent to Turkey, to the organisers of the Flotilla Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief or Insani Yardim Vakfi (IHH). We understand that the Turkish authorities agree this to be correct. I explained this to the British nationals who I met on 17 June. We have also been informed by the Israeli authorities that the return of magnetic and media equipment is under consideration by the Israeli defence forces. We will continue to press for its return and availability for use in the inquiry, as required by those conducting it.

We have also asked exceptionally asked our consular staff in Istanbul to follow up with IHH who still hold over 300 pieces of unclaimed luggage, including watches, phones and cameras. Our consular staff have taken photos of everything that was seen in IHH's storage, which we will shortly be distributing to the British nationals involved so they can attempt to identify any property that is theirs.

### South America: Organised Crime

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the election of the new president of Colombia for UK policy on combating drug trafficking and organised crime in South America. [4778]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We have an excellent and successful working relationship with Colombia on tackling the cocaine trade and organised crime. We are confident that this will continue under president-elect, Juan Manuel Santos, who is committed to working with the UK and other international partners to combat this global threat.

### United Nations: Reform

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on reform of the United Nations. [4633]

**Mr Bellingham:** We need a strong UN to resolve and manage international challenges such as conflict prevention and resolution, proliferation of nuclear weapons, international terrorism and climate change. We shall work with other member states to modernise UN practices, to make the UN more effective and to strengthen its capacity to deliver where most needed. It also remains vital that the UN balances member states' demands for activity with sustainable budget levels.

The UN Security Council is the only global body that has the legitimacy and moral authority to respond to global threats to peace and security. It needs to become more representative of the modern world, but at the same time no less effective in taking necessary decisions to maintain international peace and security. We support permanent seats on a reformed Council for Japan, India, Germany, Brazil and African representation.

## HEALTH

### Young Children

18. **Mr Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the level of participation in local public health programmes for young children funded by his Department. [4476]

**Anne Milton:** The Government are reviewing all the public health programmes funded by the Department of Health.

We want to identify those programmes that are evidence based and making a real difference to the lives of young children, especially the most vulnerable or disadvantaged.

### Commissioning Structures

19. **Bob Blackman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to merge primary care trust commissioning structures with local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [4477]

**Mr Lansley:** The Government intend to devolve day-to-day national health service commissioning to practice-led commissioners. We do not therefore plan to merge primary care trust commissioning structures with local authorities. We do intend to secure greater co-ordination of public health commissioning and health and social care joint working; this will engage the NHS with local authorities.

### Healthcare-acquired Infections

20. **Mr Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to eradicate healthcare-acquired infections in NHS facilities. [4478]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The revised NHS Operating Framework for 2010-11, published last week, made clear we have a zero-tolerance approach to avoidable infections. National health service organisations should deliver continuous improvement. We have already introduced weekly reporting for MRSA and *C. difficile* and are considering a widening of the mandatory surveillance system to cover other infections.

### Healthy Child Programme

21. **Roberta Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the healthy child programme; and if he will make a statement. [4479]

**Anne Milton:** In the coalition agreement, we state our aim to promote public health and prevent ill health. We believe that this needs to start in pregnancy and continue throughout childhood and adolescence.

### Long-Term Neurological Conditions

22. **Duncan Hames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of his Department's progress in the implementation of the national health service framework for long-term neurological conditions. [4480]

**Mr Burstow:** We are currently considering the timing and scope of the Mid Point Review for this Framework, and will report to the House in due course.

### Work Capability: Fluctuating Conditions

23. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the methods for assessing patients with multiple sclerosis, myalgic encephalopathy, fibromyalgia and other fluctuating conditions for the purpose of work capability assessments. [4481]

**Mr Burstow:** No discussion has taken place.

Our policies will ensure that disability or illness is not a barrier to work for those that can work, as well as providing appropriate support for those unable to do so as a result of their health condition.

### Waiting Times

24. **Mr Mudie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the maximum target period of 18 weeks between GP referral and treatment; and if he will make a statement. [4482]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We have received a number of representations on the 18 weeks target. We believe the national health service must focus on securing improved health outcomes for patients rather than on process targets that do not lead to improvements in patient health, so, on 18 weeks, we have removed central performance management to empower clinicians and patients.

### Combat Veterans: Mental Health

25. **Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve arrangements for mental health care of combat veterans; and if he will make a statement. [4483]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We are committed to providing veterans with effective mental health services. Six pilot schemes will assist veteran mental health planning from 2011-12.

The Prime Minister requested the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) to review military health provision, including veteran mental health, and he expects to report in July.

£2 million funding was recently confirmed by the Secretary of State to work with our strategic partners to identify how to invest funding into NHS services to ensure the best treatment possible for veterans with mental health problems.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to bring forward proposals for a *(a)* minimum unit pricing on alcohol products and *(b)* requirement for such products to carry health warning labels. [4255]

**Anne Milton:** The Government have no plans to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol. The Coalition programme for government includes commitments to ban the sale of alcohol below cost and to review alcohol taxation and pricing, to ensure it tackles binge drinking without unfairly penalising responsible drinkers, pubs, and important local industries. A public consultation on options for improving information on the labels of alcoholic drinks to support consumers to make healthier choices closed on 31 May. The responses will be analysed and we will make an announcement on our decision for a way forward in due course.

### Blood: Contamination

**Diana R. Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will equalise the level of payments made by the Skipton Fund and the MacFarlane Trust for people infected by contaminated blood and blood products. [4384]

**Anne Milton:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for West Worcestershire (Harriett Baldwin) on 7 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 46W.

### Cancer: Drugs

**Jacob Rees-Mogg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will instruct the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to expedite its review of Lapatinib. [4892]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) develops guidance based on a robust assessment of the available evidence and in wide consultation with stakeholders. NICE is an independent body and it would not be appropriate for Ministers to interfere in an ongoing NICE appraisal.

### Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on Recommendation 6(h) of Lord Archer's report on contaminated blood and blood products. [4758]

**Anne Milton:** We are considering our response to a recent High Court judgment on the level of payments made to those affected by contaminated blood and blood products and will announce a decision in due course. In the meantime, ex-gratia payments will continue to be paid at current levels to those affected.

### Dietary Supplements: EU Law

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the Food Supplements Directive; and if he will make a statement. [4314]

**Anne Milton:** Health Ministers have recently received representations in the form of parliamentary questions and correspondence on behalf of industry and consumers from Members of Parliament, and correspondence from industry, about the setting of maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in recommended daily doses of food supplements under the EU Food Supplements Directive.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* value for money of total abstinence-based drugs treatment programmes compared with other forms of treatment; and what account he has taken of this assessment in determining the future funding of drugs treatment programmes by his Department; [4055]

(2) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* value for money of total abstinence-based drugs treatment programmes compared with other forms of treatment; and what account he has taken of this assessment in determining the future funding of drugs treatment programmes by his Department. [4054]

**Anne Milton:** Our priority is to see drug misusers achieve abstinence and contribute productively to society.

In 2007, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published "Technology Appraisals on methadone and buprenorphine"

www.nice.org.uk/TA114

and also NICE Clinical Guidelines on opiate detoxification

www.nice.org.uk/CG52

and on psychosocial interventions

www.nice.org.uk/CG51

for drug misuse.

In addition, the Department, in conjunction with other United Kingdom administrations, published updated UK Clinical Guidelines on drug misuse, "Drug misuse and dependence—UK guidelines on clinical management—2007".

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse has produced guidance on the evidence base and clinical practice of drug treatment which can be found at:

www.nta.nhs.uk/publications.aspx

Decisions about future funding will be taken following the Spending Review.

NICE periodically reviews its guidance to determine whether an update is required.

### Food: Pesticides

**Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of undertaking pesticides analysis of high-risk non-animal origin foodstuffs in an approved laboratory prior to dispatch to a destination in another EU member state; and if he will make a statement. [4118]

**Anne Milton:** We have been advised by the Food Standards Agency that consignments of certain high-risk products of non-animal origin are subjected to laboratory analysis in an approved laboratory to detect the presence of pesticides, at set frequencies dependant on the particular product and country of origin.

These controls are set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No. 669/2009 (as amended). Where a consignment arrives at a designated point of entry (DPE) in England which is destined for another European Union member state, the competent authority at the DPE in England may authorise onward transmission of the consignment pending the results of physical checks, including laboratory analysis. The competent authority at the DPE in England should liaise with the relevant competent authority of the member state of destination to ensure that the consignment remains under the control of the competent authorities involved until results are known.

### Herbal Medicines: EU Law

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will assess the potential effect on the number of visits to GPs by patients of withdrawal of authorisation for certain herbal products following the implementation of the provisions of the EU Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; [4404]

(2) how many herbal products he estimates will be removed from the market following the implementation of the provisions of the EU Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; [4405]

(3) what assessment has been made of the effect on small businesses of implementation of the EU Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; [4406]

(4) if he will take steps to assist small and medium-sized businesses adversely affected by the implementation of the EU Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; [4407]

(5) if he will bring forward proposals to establish an independent appeals process to decide on cases of dispute on whether a herb is a medicine; [4414]

(6) if he will seek an opt-out for the UK from the provisions of the EU Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive. [4415]

**Anne Milton:** Directive 2004/24/EC on traditional herbal medicinal products was implemented in the United Kingdom in October 2005. The directive takes full effect when the transitional period for compliance expires on 30 April 2011.

The effect of the directive in the UK is to bring a sector that was previously largely unregulated into systematic medicines regulation. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in its impact assessment recognised that some businesses, including small and medium-sized manufacturers, were likely to be significantly affected, and that the impact would vary widely depending on the standards to which the businesses were currently operating. The assessment also suggested that some restructuring in the herbal sector was likely. This view has not changed.

The MHRA has so far received 143 applications to register products under the traditional herbal registration (THR) scheme. Of these applications 61 have been granted, and the remainder are under assessment. The agency is aware that many companies have made detailed preparations to comply with the requirements of the directive.

The Better Regulation Executive review of MHRA implementation of Hampton principles reported in 2009 that the agency had given extensive help to industry in preparing to meet the requirements of the directive. MHRA will continue to provide such support, which includes the opportunity for companies to have dialogue with the agency as to how they can most effectively progress their intended applications under the THR scheme.

Companies are not required to notify the MHRA of unlicensed products marketed under section 12(2) of the Medicines Act 1968, therefore no estimates are available of how many products will need to be withdrawn from the UK market following the expiry of the transitional period. As now there will continue to be many herbal products that potentially can be placed on the market either as medicinal products or under other product regulatory regimes depending on their presentation.

Historically, unlicensed herbal medicines have been made to widely varying standards and have not necessarily been accompanied by reliable information about safe usage. Products registered under the THR scheme are manufactured to high standards and come with authorised information for the consumer. We do not believe it would be feasible to make reliable predictions as to the combined impact of actual changes in the regulatory regime and possible future changes in the herbal medicines market on the number of visits to general practitioners.

The process for determining whether or not a product is a medicine already includes the option of a review by the Independent Review Panel for Borderline Products. This panel was introduced in 2000 and details are included in the MHRA's guidance note No. 8, a guide to what is a medicinal product.

### Hospitals: Buildings

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many empty former psychiatric hospitals there are; and how many of them are in the process of *(a)* being sold and *(b)* being sold for the purpose of affordable housing. [4413]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Information on the number of empty former psychiatric hospitals is not held by the Department. Parts of the site of two psychiatric hospitals are in the ownership of the Secretary of State for Health. One of these sites is in the process of being sold for redevelopment as a care village and thus will not include affordable housing.

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the merits of the sale by the NHS of empty properties which were formerly mental health institutions. [4791]

**Mr Simon Burns:** National health service trusts, as owners, are responsible for the management of their estate and for decisions as to whether a property is considered to be surplus to requirements. The proceeds from the sale of property owned by NHS trusts are reinvested in improving local healthcare.

### Medical Equipment

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an estimate of the number of static NHS lithotriptor machines there are per million population in England. [4848]

**Mr Simon Burns:** This information is not held centrally.

### Mumps: Vaccination

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the merits of reintroducing a licence for the single mumps vaccine. [4393]

**Anne Milton:** The reintroduction of a licence for a single mumps vaccine would require a manufacturer to submit a marketing authorisation application to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. The application would be considered in line with current legislative requirements regarding the licensing of medicines. The applicant would need to demonstrate acceptable quality, safety and efficacy of the vaccine before a licence could be granted.

### Muscular Dystrophy

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated for the care of Duchenne muscular dystrophy patients in each region through special commissioning groups in the latest period for which figures are available. [4318]

**Mr Burstow:** This information is not collected routinely. Not all specialised commissioning groups commission services for people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Services tend to be located in larger hospitals based in big towns and cities.

### NHS: ICT

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of NHS IT expenditure in 2009 was on online services accessible to people with an internet browser; [4408]

(2) what percentage of NHS IT expenditure in 2009 was spent on software which can only be maintained by the original supplier; [4409]

(3) how much the NHS has spent on IT projects over three years late in delivery *(a)* in total and *(b)* in 2009; [4410]

(4) what percentage of NHS IT projects were put out to tender online in 2009. [4411]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Comprehensive information about information technology procurements by national health service organisations is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made an assessment of the effects on the revenue budget of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust of the decision not to proceed with its proposed new hospital; and what assessment his Department has made of the effects of that decision on the Trust's capacity to reduce health inequalities in its area. [4195]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Assessing the implications of the Treasury's decision not to fund the proposed new hospital in North Tees and Hartlepool is a matter for the local national health service. We understand that the primary care trusts in the area, NHS Hartlepool and NHS Stockton-on-Tees, will continue to work closely with North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust on delivering the wider "Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare" programme, and will be discussing the options available with the Trust.

### Quarrying: Health Hazards

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the health effects of dust particles on the people resident in areas near mineral or gravel pits. [4315]

**Anne Milton:** The Department holds no information specifically on the health effects of dust particles on people resident in areas near mineral or gravel pits. Local authorities regulate dust emissions from mineral extraction sites.

### Warrington Primary Care Trust: Finance

**David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to process the adjustment in direction of travel formula (DTF) in respect of Warrington Primary Care Trust in the last three years; what estimate he has made of the revenue accruing to Warrington Primary Care Trust in that period *(a)* with and *(b)* without the DTF adjustment; and if he will make a statement; [4192]

(2) what assessment he has made of the operation of his Department's funding formula for health services in Warrington; and if he will adjust the formula to take into account the recent change in population in Warrington. [4193]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The following table shows the actual allocation to Warrington Primary Care Trust (PCT), annual cash increases and distance from target positions in cash and percentage terms for the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11.

| | *Actual allocation (£000)* | *Cash increase (percentage)* | *Cash increase (£000)* | *Distance from target (percentage)* | *Distance from target (£000)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 273,199 | 5.50 | 14,149 | — | — |
| 2009-10 | 290,606 | 5.50 | 15,150 | -1.4 | -4,082 |
| 2010-11 | 306,628 | 5.51 | 16,022 | -1.4 | -4,307 |

*Notes:*

1. The funding formula was frozen in 2008-09 therefore no distance from target allocations were calculated.

2. A new funding formula was introduced for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 revenue allocations. The application of a new funding formula and data updates impact upon PCTs' target allocations. Average growth in each year was 5.5%.

*Source:*

The Department of Health: PCT Revenue Allocations Team

PCT allocations are based on the most up-to-date population figures available at the time of making the allocations. The 2009-10 and 2010-11 revenue allocations used sub-national population projections published in 2008. The formula also includes an adjustment to take account of the Communities and Local Government Growth Areas and New Growth Points and the allocation takes account of the Growth Point covered by Warrington PCT.

PCT allocations are highlighted in the coalition agreement as an area for consideration. An independent national health service board is to be established to allocate resources and provide commissioning guidelines.

We have guaranteed that health spending will increase in real terms in each year of the Parliament and health care spend will also be looked at as part of the next spending review. This will inform the speed at which all PCTs move towards their target revenue allocations.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what properties his Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* leases overseas; whether those properties are shared with other Government Departments and non-departmental public bodies; and whether he plans to (i) sell the property or (ii) cancel the lease in each case. [3520]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has not hitherto held central records of our overseas estates. We are currently in the process of developing a central information management system that will capture this information. I will write to the hon. Member with the requested information once this system is in place.

### Family Planning

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which section of his Department has responsibility for the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy on (i) abortion and (ii) sexual and reproductive health; how many officials in his Department at each pay band are employed in this section; what other posts in his Department each such official has held; and if he will make a statement. [4303]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development's (DFID) AIDS and Reproductive Health Team, in the Policy and Research Directorate, is responsible for the formulation of policies on sexual, reproductive and maternal health, which encompasses safe abortion. Under DFID's devolved structure, implementation of policy is the responsibility of all programme divisions.

The number of equivalent full-time staff employed at each civil service grade and pay scale in the AIDS and Reproductive Health Team are provided in the following table:

| *Number of equivalent full-time staff* | *DFID grade* | *Traditional civil service grade* | *Pay range (London scale* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | A1 | G6 | £58,120 to £68,221 |
| 6.6 | A2 | G7 | £47,555 to £56,293 |
| 2.5 | B1 | HEO | £30,868 to £34,534 |
| 1 | B2 | EO | £25,029 to £27,317 |
| 1 | C1 | AO | £22,530 |

DFID does not support abortion as a method of family planning. We believe the best way to eliminate unsafe abortion is to provide access to family planning information, services and supplies and to ensure that women have more control over the circumstances in which they have sex. In countries where abortion is legal, DFID will support programmes that make abortion safe and accessible. In countries where it is illegal and women are dying due to unsafe abortion, DFID will help make the consequences of unsafe abortion more widely understood and will consider supporting processes of legal and policy reform.

### Health Services

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what *(a)* projects, *(b)* programmes and *(c)* other initiatives he expects the £6 billion his Department has allocated to global health to be spent. [4907]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Over the coming months the Department for International Development (DFID) will review all major spending areas. I have commissioned a review of DFID bilateral and multilateral aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

The reviews will consider how UK aid can help expand access to basic services, including clean water, sanitation, and health care, and how DFID can accelerate work on key priorities of malaria and maternal mortality. Allocation of funding to health will be determined as part of these reviews.

### Iraq: Overseas Aid

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects in Iraq are being funded by his Department; what the budget of each such project is; and if he will make a statement. [4013]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** Details of projects funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in Iraq are provided in the following table.

| *Name* | *Duration of Project* | *Budget (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Iraq Infrastructure Services Programme (MSP)—repairing power and water infrastructure in southern Iraq. | June 2005 to July 2010 | 34,664,000 |
| Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DelPHE) Iraq | September 2009 to March 2012 | 3,000,000 |
| Technical Support for Iraq (TSI)—building effective government structures. | July 2008 to March 2011 | 17,400,000 |
| World Bank Private Sector Development (PSD) Trust Fund—improving conditions for private sector development. | September 2009 to September 2011 | 4,000,000 |
| Small Business Finance—loans programme in Basra. | June 2009 to March 2011 | 1,380,000 |
| Youth Employment Pilot Programme (YEPP) in Basra | July 2009 to March 2011 | 985,647 |
| Az Zubayr Water Treatment Plant (Phase One) in Basra. | July to December 2010 | 610,000 |
| Contribution to 2010 UNICEF Annual Humanitarian Appeal | January to December 2010 | 2,500,000 |
| Contribution to 2010 UNHCR Annual Humanitarian Appeal | January to December 2010 | 1,500,000 |
| Contribution to 2010 International Red Cross Humanitarian Appeal | January to December 2010 | 1,000,000 |

The tri-departmental Conflict Pool's Middle East programme is jointly managed by MOD, FCO and DFID. DFID is managing the following Conflict Pool project:

| *Name* | *Duration of Project* | *Budget (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Basra Governance Support Programme—strengthening Basra provincial functions and structures. | October 2009 to September 2010 | 900,000 |

## CABINET OFFICE

### Admiralty House: Flags

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons the Royal Standard was not hoisted at Admiralty House on the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen in June 2010. [4542]

**Mr Maude:** The Queen visited the Cabinet Office in June 2010 to attend a meeting of permanent secretaries and to meet a number of those civil servants who had recently been engaged in the process of forming a new Government. The character of this engagement did not automatically suggest that the Royal Standard should have been flown: neither the Cabinet Office nor Buckingham Palace requested it.

As a general rule, the Royal Standard is flown in the United Kingdom when the Queen is in residence in one of the Royal Palaces, on the Queen's car on official journeys and on aircraft (when on the ground). It may also be flown on any building, official or private (but not ecclesiastical buildings), during a visit by the Queen, if the owner or proprietor so requests.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had with the UK Statistics Authority on *(a)* the publication by his Department of figures relating to non-payroll staff and *(b)* the application of the provisions of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 to that publication; and if he will make a statement. [4554]

**Mr Maude:** I discussed *(a)* the publication by my Department of figures relating to non-payroll staff and *(b)* the application of the provisions of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 to that publication with the National Statistician prior to their publication. The purpose of this discussion was to clarify the scope of the management data collection exercise and its relationship with official statistics.

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 329W, on departmental mobile telephones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier was in respect of the BlackBerry devices issued to (i) himself, (ii) the Deputy Prime Minister and (iii) the Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform. [4064]

**Mr Maude:** The network provider for the Cabinet Office Blackberries provided to Ministers is Vodafone, the tariff is team work and BlackBerry and the supplier is Fujitsu. The Blackberries are provided as part of a departmental contract the costs of which will be available when the Department's resource accounts for the financial year have been fully audited and laid before Parliament.

### Government Departments: ICT

**Dr Pugh:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to increase the efficiency of the arrangements for disposal, resale and refreshment of Government ICT equipment. [4338]

**Mr Maude:** Work to increase the efficiency of the disposal, resale and refreshment of Government ICT equipment will be taken forward by the Efficiency and Reform Group as part of this Government's commitment to centralise the procurement of commodity goods and services across Government.

### Government Departments: Procurement

**Mr Timpson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made towards publishing Government tenders in full online and free of charge. [4845]

**Mr Maude:** The Cabinet Office Structural Reform Plan, published on 15 June 2010, included a commitment to publish all new central Government tender documents above £10,000 on a single website free of charge, as part of the Government's transparency commitments.

A Public Sector Transparency Board has been established in the Cabinet Office. As Minister for the Cabinet Office I chair the Board. The Board's role will include providing support to Departments as they deliver their transparency commitments.

Guidance will be issued to Departments on how this commitment should be implemented.

In the meantime, Government Departments are currently encouraged to publish all new tender opportunities above £20,000 on:

www.supply2.gov.uk

Above defined value thresholds, there is a requirement to publish contract notices in the Official Journal of the EU.

**Mr Timpson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made towards awarding 25 per cent. of Government contracts to small and medium-sized businesses. [4846]

**Mr Maude:** The Office of Government Commerce and BIS are working together to establish the baseline and put together a plan to address the issue.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Housing: Greater London

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of new homes built in *(a)* Tottenham constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Haringey and *(c)* London were affordable in each year since 1990. [4297]

**Andrew Stunell:** Statistics on house building and affordable housing supply are not collected at constituency level. The table presents the available data on the number of new build completions and the number of newly built affordable homes in the London borough of Haringey and across Greater London as a whole. The proportion of new build homes that were affordable should be interpreted with care as the estimates are taken from different data sources and therefore may not be directly comparable.

It should also be noted that not all affordable housing is provided through new-build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2008-09, for example, a total of 12,890 additional affordable homes were provided in London.

| | *Total completions* | | *Affordable new build completions* | | *Percentage affordable* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Haringey* | *London* | *Haringey* | *London* | *London* |
| 1991-92 | * | 17,080 | 180 | 3,070 | — |
| 1992-93 | * | 14,430 | 410 | 6,700 | — |
| 1993-94 | * | 14,630 | 400 | 7,720 | — |
| 1994-95 | * | 15,120 | 370 | 9,250 | — |

| | *Total completions* | | *Affordable new build completions* | | *Percentage affordable* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Haringey* | *London* | *Haringey* | *London* | *London* |
| 1995-96 | * | 16,290 | 420 | 9,770 | — |
| 1996-97 | * | 12,650 | 190 | 6,850 | — |
| 1997-98 | * | 13,620 | 100 | 4,920 | 36 |
| 1998-99 | * | 14,430 | 90 | 4,890 | 34 |
| 1999-2000 | * | 13,680 | 100 | 4,410 | 32 |
| 2000-01 | * | 14,490 | 120 | 4,850 | 33 |
| 2001-02 | * | 13,930 | 150 | 5,000 | 36 |
| 2002-03 | * | 15,670 | 100 | 4,420 | 28 |
| 2003-04 | * | 19,390 | 300 | 6,010 | 31 |
| 2004-05 | * | 24,060 | 200 | 6,430 | 27 |
| 2005-06 | * | 18,810 | 450 | 7,460 | 40 |
| 2006-07 | * | 22,760 | 240 | 10,190 | 45 |
| 2007-08 | 870 | 22,160 | 280 | 11,090 | 50 |
| 2008-09 | * | 19,330 | 250 | 8,600 | 44 |
| 2009-10 | * | 19,470 | * | * | * |

* = data not available. Rounded to nearest 10 units.

*Source:*

CLG Official Statistics on house building and gross affordable housing supply.

The next CLG Affordable Housing statistical release containing figures for 2009-10 is scheduled to be published in the autumn of 2010.

## Local Government Finance

**Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS, on the local government savings package, what discussions he has had with representatives of community and third sector organisations on the effect on Nottingham of reductions in funding to *(a)* the Connecting Communities programme, *(b)* the Cohesion programme and *(c)* the Prevent programme. [4308]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Secretary of State has had no meetings with representatives of the voluntary and community sector in Nottingham regarding the savings package and Cohesion and Prevent programmes.

**Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS, on the local government savings package, what assessment he has made of the effect of the reduction in funding allocated to the Working Neighbourhoods Fund on plans to tackle worklessness in Nottingham. [4309]

**Robert Neill:** The Working Neighbourhoods Fund is paid as part of Area Based Grant. All local authorities that are eligible for Working Neighbourhoods Fund have received a reduction in their Area Based Grant funding for 2010-11. This includes Nottingham, which this financial year will receive a Working Neighbourhoods Fund allocation of over £11 million.

Paying Working Neighbourhoods Fund through Area Based Grant gives councils the flexibility to take decisions locally on how to deliver the savings needed while protecting essential frontline services. Where revenue grants to local authorities have been reduced, no local authority will face a reduction of more than 2% overall in their main revenue grants.

**Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS, on the local government savings package, if he will *(a)* undertake and *(b)* publish an impact assessment on the effect of in-year reductions in funding for local authorities on each (i) local authority and (ii) region. [4311]

**Robert Neill:** Tackling the UK's record deficit is the Government's top priority and we believe that it is right that local authorities make a contribution to the efficiency savings of £6.2 billion in 2010-11. We have adopted a fair approach to the reductions in grants and funding streams and have limited the amount individual authorities lose. The impact on their area of the reductions in grants this year will be for local authorities to decide. We have ensured that councils are able to deliver essential frontline services by making no changes to the £29 billion they receive through Formula Grant and by increasing flexibility for local spending decisions through removing restrictions on how they spend their money.

**Mr Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to the merits of relaxing the Audit Commission's requirement on local authorities to appoint named auditors; and what assessment he has made of the compatibility of that requirement with his Department's policies on best value. [4506]

**Robert Neill:** Following my instructions to the Audit Commission and five other local inspectorates to stop Comprehensive Area Assessment, we are looking further at local government audit and inspection in pursuit of our priorities for localism and cutting local government inspection.

## Local Government Finance: Working Neighbourhood Fund

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS, on the local government savings package, what estimate he has made of the change to the level of funding allocated by his Department to the Working Neighbourhood Fund in each local authority in 2010. [4584]

**Robert Neill:** The Working Neighbourhoods Fund is paid as part of Area Based Grant. All local authorities that are eligible for Working Neighbourhoods Fund have received a reduction in their Area Based Grant funding for 2010-11.

Paying Working Neighbourhoods Fund through Area Based Grant gives councils the flexibility to take decisions locally on how to deliver the savings needed while protecting essential frontline services. Where revenue grants to local authorities have been reduced, no local authority will face a reduction of more than 2% overall in their main revenue grants.

## Local Government Services

**Mr Timpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to encourage the running of local public services by local people. [4844]

**Greg Clark:** The Government's broad plans are set out in 'The Coalition: our programme for Government', and more detailed proposals will be published in the Decentralisation and Localism Bill in the autumn, after we have consulted informally with all those with an interest across the sectors.

### Local Government: Referendums

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress he has made on his proposals to give residents the power to instigate local referendums on local issues. [4632]

**Robert Neill:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunnell) to the hon. Member for Nottingham East (Chris Leslie) on 8 June, *Official Report*, column 132W.

### Mortgages: Government Assistance

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made for the number of people who have received support from the *(a)* Support for Mortgage scheme, *(b)* Mortgage Rescue scheme and *(c)* Homeowner Support scheme in the last (i) three, (ii) six and (iii) 12 months. [4168]

**Grant Shapps** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* As at November 2009 the number of people in receipt of Support for Mortgage Interest was 225,000.

Mortgage Rescue Scheme summary monitoring statistics are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website. Latest figures show as at the end of March 2010 629 households have completed the full process to remain in their homes, in most cases as social tenants. The previous Government's target for the scheme was to help up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable families avoid repossession. (DCLG Press Release, 2 September 2008.

It was announced on 14 June 2010 that since the launch of the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme in April 2009, 34 households had been accepted onto the scheme to the end of April 2010. The previous Government's target was to help 15,500 a year over the next two years. (DCLQ 'Impact Assessment of Homeowners Mortgage Support', 21 April 2009, p.10).

### Non-domestic Rates

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 162W, on non-domestic rates, whether he plans to provide additional relief following the late billing of the business rates for new start-ups during financial year 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [4785]

**Robert Neill:** There is no specific relief applicable to ratepayers who receive late business rate bills and I have no plans to introduce one. However, depending on their circumstances, ratepayers may be eligible for a variety of reliefs. In addition, we are doubling the level of small business rate relief in England for one year, from 1 October 2010.

### Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the merits of *(a)* freezing and *(b)* capping increases in business rates arising from the April 2010 rating revaluation for (i) petrol stations and (ii) other businesses. [4301]

**Robert Neill:** A transitional relief scheme was introduced on 1 April 2010 which limits the annual increases in bills for those ratepayers facing large rises as a result of the 2010 revaluation. The transitional relief scheme applies to all sectors including petrol filling stations. The new Government are aware of concerns about large increases in rateable value for petrol stations and will be looking to meet representatives of the industry to discuss their concerns.

### Offices: Expenditure

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what items of new furniture and fittings have been purchased for the office of each Minister in his Department since 6 May 2010; and at what cost. [4533]

**Grant Shapps:** No items of new furniture and fittings have been purchased for ministerial offices in Communities and Local Government since 6 May 2010.

### Planning Permission: Blackpool

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he gave to the provisions of *(a)* Planning Policy Guidance note 13: Transport, *(b)* Planning Policy Guidance note 17: Planning, Open Space, Sport and Recreation and *(c)* Planning Policy Statement note 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation in his decision not to call in development application to Blackpool Borough Council, No. 09/0740, for his own determination. [4549]

**Robert Neill:** The decision not to call in the application was made in the knowledge that all the matters which relate to this application were initially considered and assessed by Blackpool council, as referred to in detail in their committee report. Following its referral, careful consideration was given to the relevant planning issues which fall under the national planning policies which you refer, together with the representations received. Having regard to his policy on call in, the Secretary of State then decided not to call-in the application as there was not sufficient conflict with national planning policies PPG13 and 17 and PPS9 on those matters. In arriving at his decision the Secretary of State has also had regard to the proposed planning conditions in particular relating to flooding, amenities, natural habitats/ecology. He also took into considerations proposed legal agreements and financial contributions in relation to highways, open space and other provisions.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he gave to representations made by Lancashire County Council that development application No. 09/0740 to Blackpool Borough Council would be contrary to Planning Policy Statement note 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, in deciding not to call in the application. [4550]

**Robert Neill:** The Secretary of State has taken account of all the representations made, including those from Lancashire county council, on the issues raised in the context of PPS9-Biodiversity and Geological Conservation. Having considered the assessment provided in the council's committee report and in the applicant's supporting Environmental Statement, the Secretary of State is of the view that those issues do not appear to be in significant conflict with PPS9 considerations. He is satisfied that the proposed planning conditions and other mitigating measures relating to natural habitats/ ecology are adequate in safeguarding protected species and to minimise any harmful impact on biodiversity.

**Mr Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account he took in reaching his decision not to call in the development plans submitted to Blackpool Borough Council, reference 09/0740, of *(a)* the concerns of Blackpool Transport over the adequacy of public transport provision for the proposed development and *(b)* the provisions of Planning Policy Guidance 13 on Transport. [4691]

**Robert Neill:** The Secretary of State has given considerations to all the representations made, including those from Blackpool Transport, on the issues raised in the context of PPG 13—Transport. He has taken account of the assessment of those issues provided in the council's committee report and in the applicant's supporting Transport Statement. While the issues relating to public transport and any highway improvements remain a matter for the highway authority's considerations, however in this case there are proposals relating to improvements to highways and public transport provision which are subject to legal agreements. In the circumstances no issues would appear to be in significant conflict with PPG 13 considerations.

### Public Houses

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure provision of business, legal and financial advice and support to members of local communities wishing to run local public houses as a mutual, co-operative or social enterprise; and if he will make a statement. [2513]

**Andrew Stunell:** Members of local communities wishing to take over their local public house as a mutual, co-operative or social enterprise can approach the independent Asset Transfer Unit, which is funded by Communities and Local Government to provide generic advice on business planning, technical and financial matters relating to the transfer of assets to community management and ownership. We are currently reviewing what further support can be offered to support the community ownership of public houses, within the context of the Government's decision to reassess spending approvals granted between 1 January 2010 and the general election to ensure that they offer good value for money and are consistent with the Government's priorities. A further statement will be made in due course.

### Regeneration: Newcastle

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will provide support for the continuation of the Bridging Newcastle Gateshead programme funded by the Pathfinder Budget in the same form as the previous administration. [4796]

**Andrew Stunell:** The Housing Market Renewal Programme was included in the £6.2 billion of savings from Government spending in 2010-11 announced on 24 May. The budget for 2010-11 announced in December 2009 has been reduced by £50 million. The mechanism by which this reduction is achieved has been subject to consultation and individual allocations for 2010-11 will be confirmed shortly. The long-term plans for programmes, including HMR, will be set out by Government after the spending review later this year.

### Renewable Energy: Planning Permission

**Mr Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he intends to make the necessary amendments to the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to add air source heat pumps and small-scale wind turbines to the list of permitted developments. [4736]

**Robert Neill:** The Government are considering the policy options for amending the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 in respect of small-scale wind turbines and air source heat pumps. Informed by the responses to a recent public consultation, we intend to announce key decisions and the way forward shortly.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Constituencies

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what amendments to legislation governing devolution he plans to propose in order to implement his proposals to establish fewer constituencies with more equal populations. [4516]

**Mr Harper:** Proposals to implement this aspect of the coalition agreement are being carefully considered within Government. Details will be announced in due course and Parliament will have the opportunity to debate them.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many Government *(a)* cars and *(b)* drivers are allocated to Ministers in his Office. [291]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 28 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 446W.

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many civil servants in the Privy Council Office are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3195]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** No civil servants in the Privy Council Office have a dedicated Government car or driver.

As was the case under the previous Administration, civil servants may use a taxi or car from the Government car pool in properly defined circumstances.

### Electoral Register

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to bring forward proposals for individual voter registration. [4360]

**Mr Harper:** The Government are committed to speeding up the implementation of Individual Voter Registration and are currently considering the options for this. We will set out our plans in due course

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was spent on the registration of elections by local authorities in England in each of the last 10 years. [4361]

**Robert Neill:** I have been asked to reply.

The net current expenditure on the registration of electors by local authorities in England in each of the last 10 years is tabled as follows.

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 43,361 |
| 2000-01[1] | n/a |
| 2001-02 | 44,341 |
| 2002-03 | 48,366 |
| 2003-04 | 49,321 |
| 2004-05 | 54,105 |
| 2005-06 | 57,169 |
| 2006-07 | 63,968 |
| 2007-08 | 64,996 |
| 2008-09 | 67,560 |

[1] Separate information is not available for 2000-01 as it is included within the central services to the public.

*Note:*

Figures from 2003-04 onwards are collected on a Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 17 basis consequently comparisons between FRS 17 and non-FRS17 may not be valid.

*Source:*

Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the merits of using bar coding on electoral registration forms to assist with electoral registration. [4364]

**Mr Harper:** The Government have not made such an assessment. The effectiveness of bar coding as an aid to electoral registration is a matter for individual Electoral Registration Officers to determine.

### Members: Conduct

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made on proposals to introduce a power for electors to recall their Member of Parliament. [4709]

**Mr Harper:** As set out in the coalition agreement, the Government are committed to bringing forward legislation to introduce power of recall. We are currently considering what would be the fairest, most appropriate and robust procedure.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Business: EU Law

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department last made an estimate of the cost of EU regulations to British businesses. [4818]

**Mr Prisk:** The last estimate of the cost of EU regulation to British businesses made by this Department was contained in the second Forward Regulatory Programme published in April 2010. This shows that, at that time, the proportion of new regulatory costs stemming from the EU between April 2010 and April 2011 was about 31% of the total.

This Department has not estimated the overall cost of either all EU regulation or domestic regulation on British businesses, because to do so would involve disproportionate expenditure.

### Business: Scotland

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire council area and *(c)* Scotland have participated in the Working Capital Scheme since its inception. [4333]

**Mr Prisk:** The Working Capital Scheme (WCS) was launched last year to provide guarantees for banks: individual businesses were not eligible to apply for these guarantees. No further guarantees will be available under the WCS although existing guarantees will be honoured.

### East of England Development Agency

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the East of England Development Agency's allocated capital programme expenditure was spent in each year since its inception. [4816]

**Mr Prisk:** Each year regional development agencies (RDAs) are given capital allocations for the year and have flexibility to swap with other regions up to the year end. There are also a large number of cases where initial capital allocations were changed in-year as RDAs' responsibilities have changed over time or cuts to capital budgets made. We do not, therefore, have a historic record of an individual region's spend on capital compared to their initial allocations.

### Environment Protection

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 456W, on environmental protection, what his definition of environmental goods and services his Department uses. [4618]

**Mr Davey:** In my answer of 16 June I noted that one of the main difficulties in taking forward the environmental negotiations in the Doha Round has been agreeing a definition. In general, environmental goods and services include those which contribute to the achievement of national and international environmental priorities including the mitigation of climate change, and the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. More specifically, the European Union, together with partners, has produced a list of goods to fulfil the Doha Declaration objective on environmental goods—JOB(09)/132. I believe that this list provides a good basis for an agreement in this area. I will place a copy of JOB(09)/132 in the Libraries of the House.

On environmental services, we are working to encourage new commitments in the following areas:

sewage and waste water services;

refuse disposal services;

sanitation services;

cleaning of exhaust gases;

noise abatement services; and

nature and landscape protection services.

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to increase the level of support provided by UK Trade and Investment for UK-based companies that develop and export innovative low carbon technologies. [4687]

**Mr Prisk:** UK Trade and Investment is refocusing its effort to build the UK's reputation globally as a partner of choice for low carbon business. At least a third of activities provided sectorally to business by UK Trade and Investment's head office this year will focus on business opportunities for UK companies with low carbon solutions.

Recent UK Trade and Investment commissioned research has identified China, India, US and Brazil as representing the greatest immediate opportunity for UK-based companies with low carbon solutions. UK Trade and Investment will, in addition to supporting UK companies in other markets, prioritise these markets for increased activities such as trade missions and meet the buyer events on low carbon business opportunities.

### Foreign Investment in UK: Israel

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance his Department provides to Israeli businesses wishing to *(a)* invest in the UK and *(b)* take part in joint ventures with UK companies; how much was made available for these purposes in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [4330]

**Mr Prisk:** The information requested is as follows.

*(a)* UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the Government organisation that leads on attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the UK. It provides consistently excellent, highly professional service throughout the investment process and uses the global network of embassies, high commissions and consulates to assist targeted, high quality investment to come to the UK, including investment from Israel.

*(b)* UKTI R&D Partnerships can help organisations including Israeli businesses, interested in forming different types of partnership, one of which is a joint venture, involving research and development (R&D) or innovation activity. R&D Partnerships has supported partnership requests from Israel since 1 April 2008 to date by delivering 13 reports in total in the following categories: five in Information Technology Electronics and Communications, three in Performance Engineering Materials Energy and Environment, and five in Life Sciences. Within these reports 215 UK organisations were contacted about the specific partnership opportunity, and 15 expressed a direct interest in opening dialogue with the Israeli organisations in question to discuss the technical details and potential collaborations.

To attract a continuing high level of quality foreign direct investment the net cost globally for 2007-08 was £32,581,000 and for 2008-09 £31,869,000—Departmental Report and Resources/Accounts published on:

www.ukti.gov.uk

Information on annual expenditure on investments from Israel is unavailable due to the difficulty of disaggregating these figures.

### Further Education

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to assist into further education those ineligible for funding support for study at further educational colleges on grounds of age; and if he will make a statement. [4026]

**Mr Hayes:** Full funding of tuition is provided for those aged 16 to 18 and for adult (19+) learners undertaking basic literacy and numeracy qualifications (Skills for Life), their first full Level 2 (equivalent to 5 GCSEs grade A*-C) or their first full Level 3 (A-level or equivalent) for those aged 19-24. Full funding is also provided for adult learners in receipt of income-based benefits.

Support for tuition of courses which are not the first full qualification for that learner at that level is provided through co-funding, at the level of 50% with a 50% contribution expected from the individual or employer.

Some adult learning is not eligible for funding by the Skills Funding Agency. If an adult is accessing education for which they are expected to make a contribution to the costs, either in part or in full, then they have access, subject to bank lending conditions, to Professional and Career Development Loans.

Colleges and training organisations administer Discretionary Learner Support, which provides funding to all learners aged 16-plus, in exceptional circumstances, and which covers additional costs such as transport rather than fees.

### Further Education: Wales

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, on further education investment, what the Barnett consequentials for Wales are of the measures announced. [4394]

**Mr Hayes:** On 24 May, as part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement on the £6 billion of efficiency savings to be realised in 2010-11, it was announced that £50 million would be re-prioritised from Train to Gain to further education capital. On 21 June, Government made a further announcement setting out the details for how this additional money would be reallocated to support a range of capital infrastructure projects prioritising those colleges who have not previously benefited significantly from further education capital investment. The Barnett formula was applied to these recycled savings, which were included in the Welsh Assembly Government figures also announced as part of 24 May statement. The Barnett consequential for Wales of the £200 million recycled savings was £11.6 million.

### Israel-British Business Council

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was allocated by his Department to the Israel-Britain Business Council in each of the last two years; for what purposes; and if he will make a statement. [4331]

**Mr Prisk:** UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) sets aside £25,000 each year to support the work of the Israel-Britain Business Council (IBBC). £10,000 per annum goes towards secretariat support for the Business Council, while £15,000 per annum is available to support initiatives aimed at helping British companies to win business in key sectors in Israel; or at bringing more Israeli investment into the UK. Such initiatives have included awareness-raising events on export or investment opportunities and trade missions.

### Mobile Phones: Competition

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to reduce mobile telephone termination rates; and if he will make a statement. [4434]

**Mr Vaizey:** The determination of levels of mobile termination rates (MTR) is a regulatory matter for Ofcom. The process for determining the rates is set out in the Communications Act; it requires a market review to be carried out and extensive stakeholder consultation.

The current regime is due to expire on 31 March 2011 and Ofcom have just concluded a second round of consultation on how rates should be calculated from 1 April next year. Ofcom will publish a statement in the second half of this year setting out the new rates.

The EU has recently recognised that the UK has one of the lowest levels of MTR in Europe. Ofcom's proposals aim to reduce this by 85%—down from around 4.3p per minute now to 0.5p per minute by March 2015. This is good news for consumers who will benefit from cheaper calls and increased competition.

### Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

**Tom Greatrex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cars were purchased under the scrappage scheme in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire Council area and *(c)* Scotland. [4335]

**Mr Prisk:** Using data based on the locations of dealerships and data for scrappage transactions which have been completed and vehicles delivered, there have been 109 completed scrappage transactions in Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, 1,092 in the South Lanarkshire council area and 27,988 in Scotland. Due to the nature of the scheme, we will not have final data on completed scrappage transactions until approximately the beginning of September this year.

### Office for Life Sciences

**Penny Mordaunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the Office for Life Sciences; and if he will make a statement. [4560]

**Mr Willetts** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) will continue to work to improve the UK business environment for life sciences companies. This will be based on close and collaborative working between Ministers in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department of Health, and their officials.

### One North-East

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed abolition of One North-East on the Passionate People Passionate Places campaign; [4711]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed abolition of One North-East on the North East Productivity Alliance project. [4712]

**Mr Prisk:** We have invited local authority and business leaders to work together and consider forming local enterprise partnerships to replace regional development agencies. Local enterprise partnerships will provide the strategic leadership in their areas and set out local economic priorities. It will be for local enterprise partnerships to decide which initiatives to support.

The Government will publish a White Paper later in the summer setting out plans for a new approach to sub-national growth.

### Overseas Trade: Israel

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much trade with Israel contributed to the UK's gross domestic product in each of the last two years; what recent discussions he has had since his appointment with his Israeli counterpart on trade between the UK and Israel; and if he will make a statement. [4328]

**Mr Prisk:** The benefits of international trade to gross domestic product (GDP) result from greater economic efficiency due to a combination of increased competition in markets, relative comparative advantages, economies of scale, increased opportunities for learning, and greater incentives for innovation. Due to the difficulty of differentiating between the impact of trade and other factors on growth, it is not possible to quantify precisely the impact of trade with another country on GDP.

The following table indicates the scale of UK trade in goods and services with Israel for the years 2007 and 2008 as a proportion of GDP:

| | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|
| *Percentage of UK GDP at market prices* | | |
| UK exports to Israel | 0.12 | 0.13 |
| UK imports from Israel | 0.10 | 0.10 |

Geographical data for trade in 2009 are due to be published at the end of July.

I have not had any discussions with my Israeli counterpart since my appointment.

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to increase trade between the UK and Israel; how much his Department (i) has spent since January 2010 and (ii) plans to spend during the next 12 months on the promotion of trade between the UK and Israel; what recent representations he has received on increasing trade between the UK and Israel; and if he will make a statement. [4329]

**Mr Prisk:** UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) provides a range of support services to British companies wishing to trade with Israel, through commercial teams based in both the UK and the British embassy in Tel Aviv. UKTI support focuses, in particular, on business opportunities in high technology sectors, including biotechnology, health care, aerospace, information and communication technology, the environmental industries and financial and legal services.

UKTI supports the work of the Israel British Business Council (IBBC) and also manages a broad range of activities aimed at boosting bilateral trade and investment, including trade missions to Israel, inward missions by Israeli firms to trade fairs in the UK and promotional events aimed at encouraging Israeli companies to list in London and do business which brings benefits to Britain.

Examples of recent UKTI initiatives aimed at boosting business between Israel and the UK include a visit to Israel in May 2009 by the former Minister for Trade, Lord Davies; a British trade mission to the WATEC water and environment trade fair and conference in Tel Aviv in November 2009; a visit to Israel by UKTI's deputy chief executive in December 2009; and the promotion of business opportunities in Israel to over 450 UK companies in London, Manchester and the West Midlands through UKTI's "Partner Middle East" road shows in February 2010. Other activities of this nature will follow over the coming 12 months.

Information on annual expenditure on promoting trade with Israel is unavailable due to the difficulty of disaggregating these figures.

There have been no recent representations on increasing business between the UK and Israel.

### Sheffield Forgemasters: Finance

**Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the planned repayment period was for the proposed loan to Sheffield Forgemasters which was withdrawn on 17 June 2010; and what the total planned repayment amount was, including interest payments. [4494]

**Mr Prisk:** The planned repayment period for the loan to Sheffield Forgemasters was 14 years. The total planned repayment amount would be £110.9 million.

Equity warrants would have provided an additional return to HMG the exact quantum of which would have depended on the outcome of the project.

**Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish representations his Department received from individuals or groups on the proposed loan to Sheffield Forgemasters between 7 May and 17 June 2010. [4495]

**Mr Prisk:** The Department received a few representations from some MPs and members of the public over the period 7 May to 17 June 2010. These have been responded directly to the constituency MPs concerned, or directly to the member of the public concerned. The Department has also received confidentially one letter from a company inquiring into the state aid position of the proposed loan. The Department is prepared to publish the response to these letter, with the consent of the individuals, or organisations concerned, if that would be desirable.

**Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when Sheffield Forgemasters first requested that his Department to provide a loan facility. [4496]

**Mr Prisk:** The initial application for support from Sheffield Forgemasters for the Ultra Heavy Forging Capability was first formally received in September 2008.

**Mr Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he had with Sheffield Forgemasters between 7 May and 17 June 2010 on the proposed £80 million loan facility. [4497]

**Mr Prisk:** I can confirm that I have had no direct discussions with Sheffield Forgemasters concerning the proposed £80 million loan or their advisers between 7 May and 17 June.

### Street Trading: Public Consultation

**Claire Perry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to publish the responses his Department has received to the joint consultation on modernising street trading and pedlar legislation, and on draft guidance on the current regime. [4812]

**Mr Davey:** I expect to publish the responses we have received very shortly.

The Department will inform those who responded when the responses are available on the BIS Website.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 30 June 2010*

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Energy and Green Economy Bill

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many of his Department's officials are working on preparations for the Energy and Green Economy Bill. [5025]

**Gregory Barker:** The core Bill team currently comprises three officials, with two more recruited and due to join in the summer. In addition there are numerous officials throughout policy and legal directorates contributing to the development of possible content.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children have been transferred from Dungavel detention centre to Yarl's Wood since the ending of child detention at Dungavel was announced; [4179]

(2) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children have been held at Dungavel detention centre since it was announced that child detention at Dungavel would cease; and what the average length of stay for each has been. [4180]

**Damian Green:** This Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes while ensuring those who do not have a right to remain in the UK, continue to leave. As part of that commitment, I announced on 19 May 2010 that all families with children would no longer be held overnight at Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre in Scotland. I am also leading a review to find alternatives to detention for families with children which I expect to be completed within weeks.

On 19 May a mother and child were transferred to Yarl's Wood from Dungavel House. No families with children have been detained at Dungavel from that time to the present.

Eight single adults have transferred to Yarl's Wood from Dungavel between 19 and 31 May, the latest date for which data are available.

Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre provides accommodation for 211 single adults. At 31 May, there were 208 adults detained at the centre. The length of immigration detention is as follows:

| *Number of detainees* | *Length of detention* |
|---|---|
| 35 | Up to 7 days |
| 44 | Between 8 and 30 days |
| 41 | Between 31 and 60 days |
| 45 | Between 61 and 120 days |
| 19 | Between 121 and 180 days |
| 24 | For more than 181 days |

These data are taken from local management information. They are provisional, subject to change and have not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for student visas were refused in the academic year *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2007-08. [4594]

**Damian Green:** The number of applications for student visas that were refused in the financial years 2009-10, 2008-09 and 2007-08 are given in the following table. I have given data for the financial years as most student visa applicants apply in the summer months, before the start of the academic year.

*Student visa applications*[1]

| *Financial year* | *Refused* |
|---|---|
| 2007/08 | 92,859 |
| 2008/09 | 96,850 |
| 2009/10 | 94,774 |

[1] Excludes dependents and student visitors.

*Note:*

The data in this table are based on management information and as such have not been quality assured. They are provisional and subject to change.

### Identity Cards

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what purposes the £450,000 revenue raised by the identity card scheme has been allocated to date. [4672]

**Damian Green:** The Identity and Passport Service received total income of £196,000 from the issue of identity cards in the financial year 2009-10. All identity card fee income has been allocated against the cost of producing the cards.

The publication of the coalition agreement on 20 May 2010 and subsequent announcement from the Home Secretary on 27 May 2010, has resulted in a decision to scrap identity cards.

### Immigrants: English Language

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who will be responsible for the administration of the proposed English language tests for new migrants. [4181]

**Damian Green:** On 9 June, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a new language requirement for those seeking entry to the UK as the spouse or civil partner, fiance or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or someone who is present and settled in the UK.

From autumn 2010, applicants will need to provide evidence that they have passed an acceptable English test at level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference with one of the UK Border Agency's approved test providers. The UK Border Agency will publish details of acceptable tests and approved test providers at the earliest opportunity.

### Marriage: Homosexuality

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 148-9W, on marriage: homosexuality, whether civil wedding and partnership ceremonies conducted on *(a)* religious and *(b)* civil premises are now able to include religious readings, music and symbols. [4829]

**Lynne Featherstone:** The answer given on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 148-9W, explained that civil partnership and civil marriage registrations are entirely secular in nature and prohibited from taking place on religious premises or containing any religious language.

An amendment made in the House of Lords to the Equality Act 2010 removed the express prohibition on civil partnership registrations taking place on religious premises. In response to this amendment, the Government committed to talking to those with a key interest in the issue of civil partnerships on what the next stage should be for civil partnerships. This will include consideration of whether civil partnerships should be allowed to include religious readings, music and symbols. This commitment was made through the document, Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality, published on 16 June 2010. There are currently no plans to allow religious readings, music and symbols during the registration of civil marriages.

### Passports: Application

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the passport with serial number 704503426 was purported to have been impounded; for what reason it was clipped; from whom her Department received the report that it had been lost or stolen; what checks her Department has made with the New Zealand authorities on the matter; whether that passport is issuable; and when a decision on passport application 2148107176 will be made. [4780]

**Damian Green:** Passport No 704503426 was impounded because it was recorded as lost on the Identity and Passport Service's lost and stolen passport database. Passports that have been recorded as lost or stolen that are subsequently recovered by the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) are normally destroyed, not clipped. The loss of a passport was reported by an individual with exactly the same name and date of birth as the holder of passport No 704503426. Therefore, the passport was recorded as lost in error. IPS has had no contact with the New Zealand authorities on this matter and has no information about the passport application referred to.

### Passports: Biometrics

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether all UK passports are to contain biometric facial recognition scanned from applicants' photographs; [4525]

(2) if she will make provision for individuals with national identity cards to have their biometric data transferred to their passport before the National Identity Register is erased. [4526]

**Damian Green:** Since 2006 the Identity and Passport Service has issued all passports in the form of an e-passport with a secure chip containing the information shown on the passport data page and a biometric facial image based on the photograph submitted with the application.

Once legislation is in place, all the information provided for the issue of identity cards and held on the National Identity Register will be destroyed and no information will be transferred to the passport database. Passport applicants will therefore need to continue to submit a recent photograph with the passport application.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which of his Department's non-departmental public bodies will reduce their budgets by 3%; by how much the funding allocated to each such organisation is to be reduced in 2010-11; how much funding each such body received in the last three financial years; and how much funding each such organisation will receive in 2010-11. [3559]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** The majority of the Department's NDPBs will cut their budgets by 3%—the following table provides details of all these reductions. The table also shows the revised budgets for 2010-11. These are the budgets for net expenditure related to the financial year 2010-11, including depreciation charges, but excluding expenditure financed by in-year income other than grant in aid. Grant in aid outturn is shown for 2007-08, 2008-09 and provisional outturn for 2009-10. Due to changes made as part of the Alignment Project, figures for 2010-11 are prepared on a different basis and are therefore not directly comparable with previous years.

*£000*

| | | *Plans* | *Grant in aid outturn*[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Body* | *Reduction* | *2010-11* | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* |
| British Museum | -1,832 | 59,251 | 44,893 | 50,943 | 48,348 |
| Natural History Museum | -1,833 | 59,272 | 45,165 | 52,887 | 51,186 |
| Imperial War Museum | -964 | 31,185 | 22,177 | 23,888 | 24,163 |
| National Gallery | -912 | 29,489 | 25,597 | 26,369 | 27,287 |

| Body | Reduction | Plans 2010-11 | Grant in aid outturn[1] 2007-08 | 2008-09 | £000 2009-10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| National Maritime Museum | -678 | 21,912 | 18,491 | 19,750 | 19,240 |
| National Museums Liverpool | -817 | 26,428 | 22,326 | 22,488 | 23,463 |
| National Portrait Gallery | -265 | 8,577 | 7,038 | 7,693 | 7,744 |
| National Museum of Science and Industry | -1,476 | 47,713 | 38,484 | 39,158 | 40,608 |
| Tate Gallery | -2,164 | 69,979 | 45,929 | 61,385 | 55,987 |
| Victoria and Albert Museum | -1,628 | 52,627 | 42,262 | 44,860 | 44,761 |
| Wallace Collection | -161 | 5,197 | 4,156 | 4,228 | 4,301 |
| Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester | -194 | 6,231 | 4,171 | 4,788 | 4,987 |
| Sir John Soane's Museum | -37 | 1,199 | 1,339 | 1,339 | 1,181 |
| Horniman Museum | -153 | 4,931 | 4,350 | 4,757 | 4,566 |
| Geffrye Museum | -55 | 1,774 | 1,956 | 1,748 | 1,791 |
| Royal Armouries | -319 | 10,329 | 8,917 | 8,264 | 8,474 |
| British Library | -3,976 | 128,546 | 106,480 | 106,947 | 109,464 |
| Public Lending Right | -230 | 7,463 | 7,488 | 7,388 | 7,582 |
| Museums, Libraries and Archives Council | -408 | 13,024 | 14,743 | 16,271 | 4,015 |
| Sport England | -4,265 | 137,549 | 113,296 | 130,163 | 134,422 |
| United Kingdom Sports Council | -1,705 | 55,196 | 67,305 | 72,201 | 65,376 |
| United Kingdom Anti Doping | -193 | 6,247 | — | — | — |
| Football Licensing Authority | -38 | 1,235 | 1,261 | 1,231 | 1,261 |
| English Heritage | -4,241 | 136,027 | 136,636 | 129,538 | 131,072 |
| Churches Conservation Trust | -95 | 3,023 | 3,062 | 3,162 | 3,162 |
| Comm. for Architecture and the Built Environment1 | -601 | 19,439 | 4,690 | 19,790 | 13,463 |
| Royal Household | -502 | 16,222 | 17,378 | 16,107 | 16,107 |
| VisitBritain | -1,252 | 40,497 | 50,650 | 49,900 | 45,800 |
| UK Film Council | -1,303 | 42,130 | 25,110 | 30,064 | 37,034 |
| Gambling Commission | -19 | 614 | 3,039 | 608 | 545 |

[1] These figures exclude the non cash items (depreciation, cost of capital charge and provisions).

## Gambling: Licensing

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 107W, on betting shops: licensing, how many decisions by local authorities in London to reject gambling premises licence applications have been overturned by local magistrates. [4793]

**John Penrose:** Unlike decisions to grant or refuse a premises licence, there is no requirement in the Gambling Act for either local authorities or magistrates to notify the Gambling Commission of appeals (whether granted or refused). As a result the Department does not hold the information requested and nor does the Gambling Commission.

## Public Expenditure: Iraq

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the budget is of each current project in Iraq funded by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [4781]

**Mr Vaizey:** This Department does not directly fund any project in Iraq. However, the British Library and the British Museum are providing valuable support for the preservation of the Iraqi cultural heritage through their work in Baghdad and Basra.

## S4C: Finance

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answers of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 106W and 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 18W, on S4C: finance, how much funding his Department allocated to S4C in each of the last 10 years; and what the average daily viewing figures for that channel were in each such year. [4558]

**Mr Jeremy Hunt:** The funding provided by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to S4C over the last 10 years is shown in the following table:

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 75,126 |
| 2001-02 | 76,817 |
| 2002-03 | 80,217 |
| 2003-04 | 85,217 |
| 2004-05 | 92,217 |
| 2005-06 | 92,217 |
| 2006-07 | 92,217 |
| 2007-08 | 92,817 |
| 2008-09 | 98,440 |
| 2009-10 | [1]101,369 |

[1] Provisional outturn.

The average weekly reach to S4C since 2000 is shown in the following table:

| | Percentage | Thousand |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 58 | 1,432 |
| 2001 | 51 | 1,254 |
| 2002 | 48 | 1,216 |
| 2003 | 44 | 1,142 |
| 2004 | 41 | 1,040 |
| 2005 | 36 | 918 |

| | Percentage | Thousand |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 34 | 865 |
| 2007 | 29 | 731 |
| 2008 | 26 | 665 |
| 2009 | 21 | 549 |

Data for the period prior to 2002 were based on a different BARB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board) viewer panel and therefore it is difficult to make comparisons between recent years and the preceding period. In 2002, problems with the new panel led to a disproportionate and significant shortfall in the sample size of Welsh speakers, which affected S4C's data for the year.

## WALES

### National Assembly for Wales: Powers

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will publish the advice she has received in relation to the wording of the forthcoming referendum on primary law-making powers for the National Assembly for Wales. [4789]

**Mrs Gillan:** On 23 June 2010 I referred the proposed referendum question and the preceding statement to the Electoral Commission for assessment. The wording of the question was considered and provided to me by the Wales Office Project Board which includes representatives of the Welsh Assembly Government, the Welsh Language Board and the Assembly Commission.

It would not be appropriate for me to publish advice I have received. Given that the question has been referred to the Electoral Commission, it is now right and proper that the Electoral Commission have the 10 weeks they require to carry out their assessment before producing their report. When I lay the referendum order, I will also lay a copy of the Electoral Commission report before both Houses.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Housing Benefit

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Financial Statement of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 166-80, (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* those of working age in work, *(c)* those of working age out of work, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit who will not receive the benefit as a result of the proposed reforms to the benefit in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15; [4608]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to be affected by the proposed reform of housing benefit where *(a)* local housing allowance is set at the 30th percentile of local rents, *(b)* previous freezes on uprating are reversed and the link with prices and deductions for non-dependents is maintained, *(c)* working age entitlements are limited to reflect the size of the family for those on the social rented sector, *(d)* housing benefit is linked to consumer price indexation rather than to local housing allowance, *(e)* the level of housing benefit awarded is reduced to 90% after 12 months of claiming jobseeker's allowance and *(f)* a maximum limit for local housing allowance is introduced for each property size in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [4693]

(3) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of private homes available for rent to local authority tenants as a result of recent reforms to housing benefit in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [4695]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of local authority tenants in receipt of housing benefit whose level of housing benefit is likely to decrease in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; how much on average will be lost per week; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect on *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the construction of new local authority housing; [4696]

(5) with reference to Budget 2010, HC 61, what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* those of working age (i) in work and (ii) out of work, *(c)* local authority tenants and *(d)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit who will receive less housing benefit in (A) cash and (B) real terms in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and how much on average will be foregone per week in each such category. [4697]

**Steve Webb:** The Department for Work and Pensions undertakes an assessment of the impact on specific groups as part of the policy development process. We will publish formal impact assessments in due course.

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the most recent full dataset of rents used to calculate local housing allowance for each broad rental market area. [4813]

**Mr Gauke:** I have been asked to reply.

The datasets comprise in excess of 450,000 items and could be published only at disproportionate cost. However, from next month, July 2010, the Valuation Office Agency will be publishing graphs on their website which will show the lowest, highest and median rents as well as the total number of rents held for each category in each broad rental market area (BRMA).

### Pension Credit: Stirling

**Mrs McGuire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Stirling constituency claim pension credit. [4117]

**Steve Webb:** The information requested is in the following table.

*Recipients of pension credit in the Stirling constituency*

| *As at November 2009* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Individual beneficiaries | 4,250 |
| Household recipients | 3,550 |

*Notes:*

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.

3. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

4. This information is published on our website at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
and on the Nomis website at:
www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

### Poverty: Children

**Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS, on the local government savings package, if he will *(a)* undertake and *(b)* publish an assessment of the effects of the in-year reductions for grant funding for local authorities on measures to address child poverty in Nottingham. [4310]

**Maria Miller:** The Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities set out the reasons and basis for reductions to local government grants in his written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS. Details of the revenue and capital grants that are to be reduced were placed in the Library of the House on the same day. The Government do not intend to undertake and publish assessments of the effects of these reductions on individual policy areas; it is for local authorities to decide where their opportunities for efficiencies lie across the totality of their responsibilities. The Government have provided councils with extra flexibility to support them in concentrating on local priorities and protecting essential frontline services.

The Government are committed to tackling the root causes of poverty and to ending child poverty by 2020. The Child Poverty Act 2010 requires local authorities and their partners to prepare local child poverty needs assessments and strategies. This should encourage local authorities and their partners to prioritise the resources they collectively have at their disposal for reducing and mitigating the effects of child poverty in their area.

### Social Security Benefits: Disability

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what consultation was undertaken before limiting eligibility to the Independent Living Fund for new applicants to those in employment for more than 16 hours per week; [2092]

(2) what annual reduction in expenditure is expected to arise from the Independent Living Fund as a result of restricting new applications to those working in excess of 16 hours. [2099]

**Maria Miller:** The Independent Living Fund is a discretionary fund administered by a non-departmental public body and is subject to the usual strict budgetary limits.

The decision to limit eligibility for new applications to those in employment for more than 16 hours per week was taken under the previous Government. No formal consultation occurred before this decision was made, but prioritising this group was in line with the Independent Living Fund's Trust Deed.

The Independent Living Fund was allocated £348 million for the year 2010-11. Its budget increased by 3% this year despite the wider fiscal pressures. There has not been a reduction in their annual projected expenditure.

## JUSTICE

### Courts: Closures

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the financial impact on *(a)* members of the public, *(b)* members of the legal profession and *(c)* the police in attending courts following the closure of local courts. [4771]

**Mr Djanogly:** An initial impact assessment has been produced for the consultations on proposals for provision of court services across Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) estate. The consultation papers and the initial impact assessment can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultations.htm

The initial impact assessment states there may be a travel cost impact on users of magistrates and county courts and that fewer courts could increase journey times and costs for court users such as victims, witnesses, general public, businesses, solicitors, barristers, police and NOMS—both probation services and prisoner transfers. However, consolidation of the court estate both in terms of function as well as location could mean that some court users will make fewer trips to court, e.g. CPS officers and solicitors may have to travel to fewer courts, and so lessening the overall impact. Fewer courts may also reduce the need for duty solicitors, decreasing costs incurred by the Legal Services Commission.

The impacts, costs and benefits of court closures will be considered more fully during the consultation phase and a full impact assessment will be produced alongside the consultation responses.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements will be made for payment of travel expenses for people who have to travel further to court after the closure of local courts. [4772]

**Mr Djanogly:** Public consultations on the delivery of courts services were announced on 23 June. No decisions on the closure of courts will be made until after the consultation period has ended and the responses considered in full. As such, no discussion has taken place about the arrangements for payment of travel expenses for people who may have to travel further to their local court. However, those attending court who are entitled to a travelling allowance or the payment of their travelling expenses will continue to be reimbursed as they are currently.

The impact of court closures on travel times and travel costs is a key area on which we are keen to gain the public's views. Responses to the consultations will help shape more detailed discussion after the consultation phase on if and how current arrangements should be altered.

### Magistrates Courts

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the extent of spare capacity in the magistrates court system. [4661]

**Mr Djanogly:** Utilisation rates currently average 64% across the magistrates courts. Courtroom utilisation is the time a courtroom is used, against the hours that a courtroom is available for use. The Government's aim is to increase utilisation of courtroom time to at least 80%.

### Magistrates Courts: Greater Manchester

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of cases likely to be transferred to *(a)* Tameside magistrates court, *(b)* Stockport magistrates court and *(c)* Manchester magistrates court following the proposed closure of other magistrates' courts in the Greater Manchester area. [4660]

**Mr Djanogly:** In the Greater Manchester area, my Department is consulting on the closure of Rochdale magistrates court and Salford magistrates court. The Lord Chancellor will take all views expressed during the consultation process into account before making any decision.

No estimate has been made of the number of cases likely to transfer to each of these courts in the question. Should there be a decision to close Rochdale or Salford magistrates courts their work will move to other courts in the Greater Manchester area.

The volume of cases heard in 2009-10 in the Rochdale, Middleton and Heywood local justice area was 12,927. The volume of cases heard in 2009-10 in the City of Salford local justice area was 12,711.

Decisions on case transfer will not be made until after the Lord Chancellor makes decisions on which courts ought to be closed.

### Prison Sentences

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those sentenced to prison for a term of six months served *(a)* six months, *(b)* three months or less, *(c)* six weeks or less and *(d)* none of that sentence in each of the last five years. [4675]

**Mr Blunt:** Prisoners who are sentenced to six months normally serve three months in prison. Adult prisoners sentenced to less than 12 months are not subject to supervision by the probation service on release from custody. However, they are 'at risk' of return to custody by the courts, to serve the unexpired portion of the sentence, if they commit an imprisonable offence before the expiry date of the original sentence. Young offenders (those under the age of 22 released from a term of detention in a YOI) are subject to a minimum of three months supervision. Juvenile prisoners sentenced to a detention and training order are supervised as part of the conditions of these sentences. These arrangements for release at the half-way point of sentence were introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

The actual amount of time served in prison, following sentence, will depend on a number of factors, including time spent as a remand prisoner or credit for time spent on tagged bail if directed by the court, any added days and release on either home detention curfew or end of custody licence.

For those prisoners discharged in 2004 to 2008 having been sentenced to six months, the amount of time served including remand is shown in the following table.

| | *6 weeks or less* | *Over 6 weeks and up to 3 months* | *Over 3 months and less than 6 months* | *6 months* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 110 | 6,200 | 600 | 10 | 6,900 |
| 2005 | 60 | 5,500 | 600 | 10 | 6,100 |
| 2006 | 50 | 4,900 | 600 | 10 | 5,500 |
| 2007 | 70 | 5,000 | 600 | 10 | 5,700 |
| 2008 | 60 | 5,000 | 590 | 20 | 5,700 |

*Notes:*

1. Numbers below 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers over 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Data for 2009 are due to be published in July 2010 and therefore are not yet available.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## TRANSPORT

### Bus Services: Newcastle upon Tyne

**Catherine McKinnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the likely effects of proposed reductions in the transport budget on the quality of bus services in Newcastle-upon-Tyne North. [3605]

**Norman Baker:** It is for local authorities to decide where their priorities and opportunities for efficiencies lie across the totality of their responsibilities, in order to protect front line services. The fact that certain grants have been chosen for reduction over others does not indicate that Government are imposing a national view on the relative importance of different areas. Nor do the Government expect there to be a direct correlation between grant reductions and local authority budget changes.

### Electric Vehicles

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 560W, on electric vehicles, if he will bring forward proposals for a national charging network for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. [4621]

**Norman Baker:** The mandating of a national charging network for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles remains a coalition commitment. We are carefully considering a range of delivery options, but decisions have yet to be taken.

### Mersey Gateway Project

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse consequent on the time taken to make a decision on approval of funding for the Mersey Gateway project. [4385]

**Norman Baker:** No estimate has been made. As with other such schemes, the Government can give no assurances that it can fund this scheme until the spending review is concluded.

### Motorcycles: Driving Tests

**Mr Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorcycle test examiners were available to carry out module 1 of the motorcycle test in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England and *(c)* Scotland on the most recent date for which figures are available. [3880]

**Mike Penning:** On 21 June 2010, 162 examiners were available to conduct module 1 practical motorcycling tests:

*(a)* 14 in Wales,

*(b)* 124 in England and

*(c)* 24 in Scotland.

The data comprise the number of examiners available to deliver module 1 practical motorcycling tests and were not on leave or absent through sickness on 21 June 2010. These examiners were also available to conduct module 2 practical motorcycling tests as well as other categories of test.

Examiners are not confined by national boundaries and are deployed to best meet local demand for tests.

### Motorways: Speed Limits

**Mrs Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will end the operation of average speed camera readings on stretches of motorway where a 50 mph limit is in place on weekends and bank holidays when no work is taking place. [2526]

**Mike Penning** *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* Reduced speed limits are used for the protection of road users and road workers. Where possible, speed restrictions are lifted when the risks to road users and road workers have been reduced.

The Highways Agency reviews the number and scale of road works, including the use of temporary reduced speed limits, at bank holidays to see how many can be reduced or removed temporarily.

Where narrowed lanes or contra flow systems have to remain in place, even when work is not being carried out, it may not be safe to remove the temporary speed limit. The Highways Agency is investigating the possible use of moveable barriers to address this problem.

### Railways: Freight

**Mr Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the economy of transporting one tonne of freight by rail instead of by road. [4431]

**Mike Penning:** The Department for Transport has not made a general estimate of the economic effect of a tonne of freight being taken by rail instead of by road because in the majority of cases industry choose the most efficient mode, thereby balancing the amount the carriage of the freight is worth with the cost of moving it by particular modes.

Where the Department intervenes in mode-choice, grants are given in order to account for impacts that do not necessarily figure in industry decision making. One of these impacts is road congestion and its associated economic impact, which can be reduced by taking freight by rail instead of by road. The costs of congestion vary by where on the road network a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) travels and detailed estimates of these costs for articulated HGVs were published in April 2009. Tables 4 and 7 in the report "Mode Shift Benefit Values: Technical Report" show estimates for different types of road and in different areas. The analysis found that on average the cost of congestion is 52p per mile for an articulated HGV. The document is available on the internet at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/165226/443908/msbtechpaper.pdf

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department plans to make available for the repair and maintenance of potholes in roads for which it is responsible in 2010-11. [509]

**Norman Baker:** Local roads in England are managed by local highway authorities. Funding is provided by central Government to local highway authorities to support investment in their roads. Local highways authorities have been advised of their allocations for 2010-11 from the £84 million provided to assist them repair potholes they consider were caused by severe weather this winter. On receipt, by the Department, of confirmation from an authority that they accept the terms and conditions of the grant, the authority will be entitled to their full allocation.

For the trunk road network in England, managed by the Highways Agency, no special funding has been provided for the repair of potholes as the costs for repairing potholes tends to be relatively small compared to the overall allocated maintenance budget. If potholes have safety implications, they are repaired promptly as part of the Highways Agency's routine and winter maintenance programme.

## DEFENCE

### 16 Air Assault Brigade: Pay

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and what proportion of members of 16 Air Assault Brigade will have their pay frozen as a result of the decision to freeze the wages of public sector workers; [4572]

(2) how many and what proportion of members of the armed forces will have their pay frozen as a result of the decision to freeze the wages of public sector workers. [4577]

**Mr Robathan:** It is not possible to calculate accurately the numbers affected by the pay freeze in April 2011 due to factors such as promotion, recruitment, retirement etc. However, it is estimated that about three quarters or some 140,000 service personnel are on salaries above

£21,000 and so would be subject to the public sector pay freeze next year. Most service personnel whether in receipt of a pay rise or not, will continue to receive annual increments on the anniversary of their seniority in rank and so will still get an increase in pay at some point. In addition, those personnel deployed on operations will continue to benefit from a range of additional allowances, for example the operational allowance, which was recently doubled, as well as the wider operational welfare package.

It is not possible to predict with any accuracy the proportion of particular Brigades that will be affected by the pay freeze in April 2011. If a similar pay freeze had come into effect in April 2010 we estimate between 70-75%of the 16 Air Assault Brigade would have been affected.

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times an International Security Assistance Force helicopter in Afghanistan has been struck by insurgent fire in 2010. [3768]

**Nick Harvey:** I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the armed forces.

**Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 119W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the percentage increase was in *(a)* new helicopters, *(b)* armoured vehicles and *(c)* protected vehicles delivered to Afghanistan in each of the last five years. [4708]

**Nick Harvey** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Defence Secretary gave him on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 119W.

We are continuously delivering improvements to our fleet of helicopters protected and armoured vehicles in Afghanistan to ensure that they meet operational requirements.

### Ammunition

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the fissile material in each of the United Kingdom's 65 non-operational nuclear warheads has been removed from the weapons and stored separately. [4904]

**Peter Luff:** The warheads in question are necessary to sustain the operationally available stockpile. They are held to support routine logistic, maintenance and warhead assurance activities and therefore they retain their fissile material.

### Armed Forces: Germany

**Ian Mearns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Chief of the General Staff on restationing of British troops based in Germany. [4005]

**Nick Harvey** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Defence regularly discusses a range of issues with the chiefs of staff.

The Ministry of Defence is examining its requirement for all overseas basing as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. However, this study has not yet reported to the Secretary of State.

### Armed Forces: Horses

**David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many horses owned by the armed forces were sold upon their retirement in the last five years; and how much income was generated from such sales; [3584]

(2) how many horses have been retired from the armed forces in each of the last five years. [3587]

**Nick Harvey:** The numbers of horses retired from the armed forces in the last five calendar years, the number subsequently sold or gifted and the income generated from those sold are shown in the following table.

| | *Number retired* | *Number sold or gifted* | *Income (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 58 | 37 | 13,400 |
| 2006 | 41 | 28 | 10,150 |
| 2007 | 51 | 26 | 9,350 |
| 2008 | 71 | 51 | 29,000 |
| 2009 | 55 | 4 | 27,517 |

Horses that have served for long periods will, wherever possible, be sent to a home that has been found suitable following inspection. Horses that have failed training will usually be sold.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Pinzgauer Vector vehicles are deployed for use by British forces in Afghanistan. [4256]

**Peter Luff:** I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure could prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

### Astute Class Submarines

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons there have been changes to the previously announced timescale for the Astute-class submarine programme. [4598]

**Peter Luff:** There are two main reasons for the changes that have been made to timetable for the delivery of the Astute class submarines. First, delays to boat one have been caused by technical issues, which are not uncommon on first of class vessels. These have been exacerbated by the need to re-establish the UK's nuclear submarine design, build, testing and commissioning capability following a ten year gap since the delivery of the last submarine and 17 years since the last first of class, HMS Vanguard. The second reason was a conscious decision of the previous Government to slow down the production of boats two to seven in response to in-year budgetary pressures.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what change there has been in the budget allocated to the Astute class submarine programme since its inception. [4669]

**Peter Luff:** The National Audit Office's Major Projects Report (MPR) 2009, HC 85-1, 2009-10, dated 15 December 2009 records that the procurement cost was originally approved in 1997 at £2,578 million for three boats, Batch 1. The report also records that the equivalent cost has, since 1997, increased by £1,355 million, to £3,933 million.

MPR 2009 also records that the boat four procurement cost was approved in 2007 at £1,610 million, and that this has since reduced by £21 million to £1,589 million.

There are no equivalent approved procurement costs for boats five to seven, so it is not possible to make any cost comparisons.

Similar cost estimates are being developed to inform MPR 2010.

### Defence Equipment

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has paid for the eight Chinook Mk3s ordered since 1997; what steps his Department is taking to ensure that orders for military equipment are delivered on time and on budget; and if he will make a statement. [4201]

**Peter Luff:** Since 1997, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has paid £389.4 million for the eight Chinook Mk3 helicopters. The payments include the original procurement cost and expenditure to make the helicopters suitable for operational deployment.

Defence acquisition continues to be faced with the significant challenge of procuring and supporting some of the most complex engineering available, in some of the harshest global environments. While performance in defence acquisition has improved, we accept that there is more to do. The Department has an ongoing acquisition reform agenda. The reforms are designed to ensure it remains strategically-aligned, affordable and achievable, including by improving internal skills, management and decision-making.

### Iraq

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what projects in Iraq are being funded by his Department; what the budget of each such project is; and if he will make a statement. [4015]

**Nick Harvey:** The tri-departmental conflict pool's middle east programme is jointly managed by Ministry of Defence (MOD), Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the Department for International Development, and has an allocation of £6.8 million to support projects in Iraq in the current financial year. The objective of the middle east north Africa conflict pool is to support the development of the effective and accountable public institutions to protect citizens and deliver services in Iraq. The solely MOD element of these projects amounts to £342,000 and has been allocated in support of the MOD-sponsored Iraqi officer training programme, which is developing the capability and capacity of the Iraqi security forces.

### Land Mines

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to ensure that British troops have the most advanced equipment to detect land mines. [4527]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) attaches the highest priority to this work. A range of equipment, is in service to counter, and neutralise, the threat of land mines and the MOD's ongoing research programme is continually looking at all aspects of the ways in which we deal with the land mine threats. For operational reasons, it would be inappropriate to be more specific.

### Turkey: Tornado Aircraft

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the military objectives are of the British Tornado aircraft stationed at Incirlik. [4906]

**Nick Harvey:** No RAF Tornado or any other British military aircraft types are stationed at the Turkish Air Force Base at Incirlik. A small detachment of RAF Tornado GR1 aircraft was maintained at Incirlik between 1995-99. The detachment was operating in direct support to Operation WARDEN/NORTHERN WATCH, enforcing no-fly zones over Iraq.

### UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department was reimbursed by the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation under the Service Level Agreement in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [4556]

**Peter Luff** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* The costs the Ministry of Defence transferred to UKTI in 2008-09 was approximately £8,231,000 and in 2009-10 approximately £4,304,000.

The reduction largely reflects the transferring of staff and contracts to UKTI and the move out of St Georges Court rather than a overall reduction in activity.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Regulation

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methodology the task force on farming regulation will use to assess the environmental impact of the use of chemicals in farming under the current regulatory structure; and if she will make a statement. [4748]

**Mr Paice:** The methodology of the task force on farming regulation will be left to the discretion of its chairman, Richard Macdonald. We expect to announce the task force's members and its terms of reference in the very near future.

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who will have responsibility for the subject of environmental protection on the task force on farming regulation; and if she will make a statement. [4749]

**Mr Paice:** We are currently approaching prospective members to form the task force on farming regulation. Full membership will be announced in the near future. The group will consist of individuals invited for their personal experience and not as representatives of specific sectors. However it will be important to have a good balance of interests and expertise among the members, including working farmers.

We will shortly publish the terms of reference of the group but it will clearly state that simplification of regulation will not involve any reduction in standards.

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single payment scheme cheques issued by the Rural Payments Agency were for amounts less than *(a)* £60, *(b)* £40, *(c)* £10, *(d)* £1 and *(e)* £0.50 in 2009. [4928]

**Mr Paice:** The number of 2009 single payment scheme payments issued by the Rural Payments Agency for the bands and scheme year specified in the question are shown in the following table:

| *Band* | *Number of payments made* |
|---|---|
| £40.01 to £60.00 | 77 |
| £20.01 to £40.00 | 23 |
| £10.01 to £20.00 | 5 |
| £1.01 to £10.00 | 2 |
| £0.51 to £1.00 | 0 |
| £0.01 to £0.50 | 4 |

Single Payment Scheme payments are made directly into bank accounts.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on administering non-compliance penalties under the single payment scheme in each of the last five years. [4929]

**Mr Paice:** It is not possible to identify separately the costs of administering non-compliance costs from overall administrative costs.

Penalties, reductions and exclusions may be applied to single payment scheme applications for a number of reasons if an application is found to be non-compliant.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish her Department's assessment of the scientific evidence which was used to decide on a targeted cull of badgers. [4743]

**Mr Paice:** We are currently looking at all the key relevant evidence, including published scientific evidence from the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) and subsequent post-trial analyses, to draw up proposals which we will publish for consultation.

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated cost will be to her Department of carrying out a targeted cull of badgers. [4744]

**Mr Paice:** The coalition has committed that, as part of a package of measures, we will introduce a carefully-managed and science-led policy of badger control in areas with high and persistent levels of bovine TB.

We need to consider all the issues carefully, including the scientific evidence, to work out the detail of the package to ensure we get it right. We will be looking at vaccine and culling options as part of that package.

We will set out our proposals in due course, including the estimated costs.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate has been made of the area of the country in which *(a)* badger culling measures and *(b)* other measures would be necessary in order to carry out the science-led approval to bovine tuberculosis control as set out in the Coalition Agreement; in which areas each type of measures would take place; and if she will make a statement. [4842]

**Mr Paice:** The coalition Government have committed to introduce a carefully managed and science-led policy of badger control in areas with high and persistent levels of bovine tuberculosis, as part of a package of measures on bovine TB. We are currently looking at options including culling and vaccination, and which areas of the country might be affected, and will set out our proposals in due course.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of implementing the science-led approach to the control of bovine tuberculosis in each of the next five years. [4869]

**Mr Paice:** DEFRA-funded expenditure on bovine tuberculosis in England was £63 million in 2009-10. We are currently looking at options to introduce a carefully-managed and science-led policy of badger control in areas with high and persistent levels of bovine TB, and it is not yet possible to provide cost estimates. More generally, it is difficult to forecast TB expenditure accurately because compensation and testing, which account for the largest proportion of annual expenditure on TB, are linked to market values for cattle and to disease levels.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

**Hilary Benn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her plans are for the six badger vaccination demonstration projects approved by the previous Government. [4745]

**Mr Paice:** On 25 June it was announced that the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project (BVDP) has been reviewed and for the time being will proceed only in one area (Gloucestershire, near Stroud), in order to help maintain capacity at the Food and Environment Research Agency to train lay vaccinators. Badger sett surveys will also be completed in the Gloucestershire area near

Cheltenham since this was already well under way. The areas in Staffordshire, Herefordshire/Worcestershire and Devon where the BVDP was due to take place will not now be trapped and vaccinated as part of the project.

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Shabana Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 148W, on departmental mobile phones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier is of the BlackBerry device issued to each Minister in her Department. [3994]

**Richard Benyon** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* DEFRA purchases BlackBerrys from Vodafone through a procurement contract, which also covers the provision of the network services. Under this contract, DEFRA has built up a credit bank; all the ministerial BlackBerrys were obtained through these means at no extra cost to the Department. The BlackBerry tariff is the UK Standard tariff (plus voice calls) of £17 plus VAT per month.

### Flood Control

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department has allocated for flood defence projects in each of the next five financial years. [4875]

**Richard Benyon:** Plans for investment in flood defences by flood and coastal erosion risk management operating authorities in 2011-12, and subsequent years, will be subject to the forthcoming spending review, concluding in the autumn.

### Flood Control: Aylesford

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department has made in introducing flood alleviation measures for Aylesford. [4512]

**Richard Benyon:** The Environment Agency's preferred flood alleviation option is to intercept flood water upstream of the village and divert it into a nearby quarry via a 250m long culvert. This is due to be completed in 2011-12.

The Environment Agency is now undertaking the outline design and preparing a funding bid which will be considered against other schemes as part of the National Investment programme in October 2010.

### Flood Control: Chatham

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on flood protection measures in Chatham and Aylesford constituency in each year since 1997. [4514]

**Richard Benyon:** The Environment Agency allocates funding to stretches of river and areas at risk of flooding rather than to parliamentary constituencies.

The Environment Agency completed the Aylesford Tidal Medway Bank Slip in 2006 at a cost of £75,000, refurbished the Aylesford Pumping Station in 2008 at a cost of £25,000 and replaced the Lower Medway Tributaries Weedscreen in 2009 at a cost of £25,000.

The Environment Agency also has an annual programme of works for the River Medway Catchment.

### Flood Control: Kent

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department has allocated to flood defence projects in Kent in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each of the next three financial years. [4511]

**Richard Benyon:** The Environment Agency's indicative programme of works in the Kent and East Sussex area for the next three years is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2011-12 Indicative programme | 28,752,000 |
| 2012-13 Indicative programme | 15,357,000 |
| 2013-14 Indicative programme | 27,805,000 |

The figures shown are from the Environment Agency's ten year medium-term plan.

These figures are indicative. Funding for future years is subject to the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review each autumn, and priorities at the time.

### Sustainable Development

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what position the EU plans to take at the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. [4625]

**Mr Paice:** The EU adopted Council conclusions on the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on 11 June. The conclusions set out political support for the conference, endorse the two agreed themes, "'green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication' and 'institutional framework for sustainable development'", and welcome the organisational structure to support the preparatory process. The EU is strongly committed to playing an active and constructive role and will be developing more detailed positions in the run up to the second preparatory committee meeting, due to take place next February.

### Timber

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on measures to prevent the illegal logging of timber. [4876]

**Mr Paice:** The UK is a strong supporter of EU legislation to eliminate the flow of illegal timber onto the market—commonly called the Due Diligence Regulation. The EU is close to agreement on a strong regulation that will include a prohibition to prevent illegal timber from entering the EU market. We are working with all EU member states, the Commission, and the European Parliament to finalise this agreement. The Secretary of State recently discussed the draft regulation with Germany, Portugal and Denmark.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in (i) his Department, (ii) the Prime Minister's Office, (iii) the Deputy Prime Minister's office and (iv) the office of the Leader of the House are entitled to the use of (A) a car with a dedicated driver, (B) a car from the Government car pool and (C) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3192]

**Mr Maude:** No civil servants or special advisers in this Department have a dedicated Government car or driver.

As was the case under the previous Administration, civil servants, including special advisers, may use a taxi or car from the Government car pool in properly defined circumstances.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to answer *(a)* question (i) 130, on departmental manpower, (ii) 27, on travel guidance for Government departments and (iii) 287, on departmental official vehicles, tabled on 25 May 2010 and *(b)* question 595, on the Coalition Press Office, tabled on 26 May 2010. [3846]

**Mr Maude:** I refer the hon. Member to my answers of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 520W, on the coalition press office (595); 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 177W, on departmental manpower (130) and 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 446W, on departmental official vehicles (287).

The question on travel guidance was transferred to HM Treasury on 28 May 2010.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Chevening

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many rooms at Chevening have been allocated for his use; and what allocation of staff has been made to support him when in residence. [597]

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I have been nominated as the occupant of Chevening.

### Lobbying

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 321W, on lobbying, what external organisations he plans to consult on the statutory register of lobbyists other than the UK Public Affairs Council. [5236]

**Mr Harper:** We will consult with those organisations that have an appropriate interest in this area before introducing a statutory register of lobbyists.

### Monarchy: Succession

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals to change the law to enable Roman Catholics or those married to Roman Catholics to succeed to the throne. [5060]

**Mr Harper:** There are no current plans to amend the laws on succession.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Business: Government Assistance

**Mrs McGuire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Stirling constituency have taken up the Working Capital scheme since its inception. [4072]

**Mr Prisk:** The Working Capital Scheme (WCS) was launched last year to provide guarantees for banks: individual businesses were not eligible to apply for these guarantees. No further guarantees will be available under the WCS although existing guarantees will be honoured.

### East of England Development Agency

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assets were owned by the East of England Development Agency in each year since its inception; and what the monetary value was of each of those assets in each of those years. [4815]

**Mr Prisk:** The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) owned assets for the purposes of investment, development and operation to the value of:

*£000*

| | *Investment asset*[1] | *Development asset*[2] | *Operational asset*[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 3,193 | 1,178 | 822 |
| 2000-01 | 4,535 | 2,681 | 919 |
| 2001-02 | 6,009 | 9,207 | 830 |
| 2002-03 | 7,811 | 19,223 | 734 |
| 2003-04 | 6,065 | 22,496 | 931 |
| 2004-05 | 3,347 | 28,980 | 1,094 |
| 2005-06 | 3,123 | 27,501 | 1,362 |
| 2006-07 | 3,102 | 19,765 | 1,261 |
| 2007-08 | 2,738 | 19,765 | 1,967 |
| 2008-09 | 2,535 | 11,219 | 1,937 |
| 2009-10 | 223 | 11,315 | 2,216 |

[1] An Investment Asset is defined as a property acquired for the purpose of producing income for its owner. In practice, EEDA acts as an interim owner of assets until a development company or equivalent is in a position to purchase the asset. Investment assets are sold on at market value.

[2] A Development Asset is defined as land inherited or acquired for the purpose of developing following clearance, decontamination and securing planning permissions. Under the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors valuation standards (Red Book rules), RDA land is valued at proposed end use which may result in a different valuation from current market value without restrictions.

[3] Operational assets include the following categories:
Furniture and Equipment
IT Hardware
IT Software (operational software)
Software Licences
Websites which will have an economic monetary benefit in the future.

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the East of England Development Agency has spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* projects in each year since it was established. [4870]

**Mr Prisk:** The information requested is available in the annual report and accounts published by EEDA and deposited annually in the Libraries of the House. The report and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2010 will be deposited in the Libraries of the House before the summer recess.

### Manufacturing Industries: Motor Vehicles

**Mrs McGuire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cars were purchased under the scrappage scheme in Stirling constituency during the scheme's operation. [4071]

**Mr Prisk:** Using data based on the locations of dealerships and data for scrappage transactions which have been completed and vehicles delivered, there have been 1,513 completed scrappage transactions in Stirling constituency. Due to the nature of the scheme, we will not have final data on completed scrappage transactions until approximately the beginning of September this year.

### Public Finance

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the capacity of the private sector to absorb redundancies in the public sector arising from reductions in departmental expenditure limits. [4703]

**Danny Alexander:** I have been asked to reply.

Public sector organisations will need to reform to live within the tighter spending envelope necessary to tackle the deficit. It will be for public sector employers to determine the exact workforce implications in line with their overall budget reductions—which will be determined by the Spending Review.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has published its independent assessment of economic prospects taking into account all measures in the Budget (Budget 2010, HC 61). The OBR forecasts that employment will rise from 2011 onwards, reaching 30.1 million (1.1 million above its 2009 level) by 2015.

### Regional Development Agencies: Pay

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the gross salary and pensions benefits was of the *(a)* chief executive, *(b)* deputy chief executive and *(c)* other executive directors of each regional development agency in each year since their inception; and if he will make a statement. [4871]

**Mr Prisk:** The information requested is available in the annual reports and accounts published by the individual RDAs and deposited annually in the House of Commons Library. The reports and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2010 will be deposited in the Library before the summer recess.

### Simon Hughes

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with the hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark on student finance. [4368]

**Mr Willetts:** MPs frequently meet BIS Ministers to be briefed on policy issues on which this Department leads.

## HEALTH

### Cervical Cancer: Screening

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of cervical cancer screening in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [4926]

**Mr Burstow:** The independent Advisory Committee on Cervical Screening (ACCS) advises on the development of the cervical screening service in England, monitors its effectiveness and efficiency and advises on research within the provision of the service.

The December 2010 meeting of the ACCS will discuss the future strategic direction of the programme based on recent and imminent research findings into new screening technologies and methodologies. The discussion will involve human papillomavirus (HPV) triage for women with mild or borderline screening results, HPV testing as primary screening, and automated reading of cervical samples. The discussion will also include the impact of HPV vaccination on the programme, as the young women vaccinated in the early waves of the vaccination programme approach the age at which they will be invited for cervical screening.

### Dementia: Health Services

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in recruiting dementia champions in each primary care trust. [4739]

**Mr Burstow:** The National Dementia Strategy calls for the appointment of dementia leads in general hospitals and in care homes. The National Audit of dementia services, due to report in October, will demonstrate progress on the appointment of leads in general hospitals. The Government have also appointed national dementia champions for the national health service (Sir Ian Carruthers) the independent sector (Martin Green) and for social care (Jenny Owen). Together with the National Clinical Director for Dementia, Professor Alistair Burns, they will be conducting regional roadshows throughout the summer of 2010 to encourage implementation of the strategy.

### Departmental Legislation

**Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has created new files on *(a)* the Abortion Act 1967, *(b)* the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 and *(c)* the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 since July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [4304]

**Anne Milton:** The Department has created new files on the Abortion Act 1967, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 as the need has arisen.

### Departmental Pay

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [2190]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Non-consolidated performance payments are an integral part of the Department's reward strategy for all its staff. They have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future pay bill costs. These payments are used to reward outstanding performance and behaviours in delivering the Department's agenda.

£2,499,004 was paid in non-consolidated performance payments to civil servants in the Department in the financial year 2009-10.

### Departmental VAT

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the change in the level of value added tax his Department will be required to pay in the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [4570]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Departmental budgets are set on a tax inclusive basis and allow for the recovery of value added tax on certain contracted out services.

In support of the Government's plans to save £6.2 billion in 2010-11, the Department is planning for a reduction in expenditure with third parties in 2010-11 compared to 2009-10 levels. Therefore, at this stage in the year we are unable to provide a reliable estimate of the change in the level of value added tax payments for the last quarter of 2010-11.

Budgets for the financial year 2011-12 have not yet been set and as such it is not possible to estimate the impact of tax changes.

### Drugs: Finance

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to implement any of the recommendations in respect of the pharmacy sector and pharmaceutical wholesalers in the McKinsey Report on NHS efficiency savings. [4613]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We have no plans to make changes affecting the pharmacy and pharmaceutical wholesaler sectors based on the recommendations in the McKinsey report. We intend to build on the current contractual arrangements for community pharmacy, incentivising and supporting high quality and efficient services and optimising patients' use of their medicines to gain better value.

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the effect on the NHS budget of changes in discounts to pharmacists, hospitals and dispensing doctors by pharmaceutical wholesalers since 1996; and if he will make a statement. [4701]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The amount of retained medicine margin generated by community pharmacy contractors through discounts and identified through medicine margin surveys is shown in the following table. Medicine margin surveys were introduced as part of the community pharmacy contractual framework in April 2005. Information relating to hospital pharmacies and dispensing doctors is not collected.

| | *Retained medicine margin (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 800 |
| 2006-07 | 1,161 |
| 2007-08 | 874 |
| 2008-09 | 770 |
| Total | 3,605 |

*Source:*
Department of Health Medicine Margin Survey

### Homeopathy

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to respond to the Fourth Report of the Science and Technology Committee of Session 2009-10, HC 45, on Evidence check 2: Homeopathy. [4185]

**Anne Milton:** Following the general election, it is important that new ministers give careful consideration to the report and its recommendations. I have therefore written to the chair of the new Science and Technology Committee requesting an extension until the summer recess.

### Hospital Beds

**David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to ensure that elderly people are moved from hospitals to residential care in a timely fashion in order to avoid delayed discharges in the NHS. [4200]

**Mr Burstow:** Councils and their national health service partners have already made significant progress in reducing delays in discharge from acute hospital beds, including where patients are being discharged to residential care. We are committed to making the NHS work better by extending best practice on improving discharge from hospital.

In the Revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010-11 we have signalled that, for 2011-12, we are planning changes to the tariff to cover reablement and post-discharge support, including social care.

### Hospitals: Greater London

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of average waiting times from referral for elective surgery at *(a)* the Royal Free hospital, *(b)* Whittington hospital, *(c)* University College London hospital and *(d)* St Mary's hospital, Paddington in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement [4809]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Information is not collected in the format requested.

Information is held at the level of trusts and information is not available for specific hospital sites. The following table sets out the median waiting times for Referral to Treatment (in weeks) for Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust, The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust in 2008-09 (latest data available).

| | *Admitted patients* | *Non-admitted patients* |
|---|---|---|
| Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | 5.8 | 3.6 |
| The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | 9.7 | 4.9 |
| University College London NHS Foundation Trust | 6.2 | 5.0 |
| Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust | 6.4 | 3.9 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures reflect average waiting times for patients treated during the month.
2. Waiting time is from referral to first definitive treatment.
3. Admitted figures are on an adjusted basis, i.e. excluding periods of delay introduced as a result of patients turning down offers of admissions made with reasonable notice.
4. The latest published Referral to Treatment data are for April 2010.

*Source:*
Department Monthly Referral to Treatment Return

### Macular Degeneration: Health Services

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* incidence of and *(b)* cost to the public purse of treating age-related macular degeneration in the latest period for which figures are available. [4263]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department does not collect data on the number of people with age-related macular degeneration. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence estimated in August 2008 as part of their appraisal of ranibizumab and pegaptanib that there are about 26,000 new cases of wet age-related macular degeneration in the United Kingdom each year. The Hospital Episode Statistics produced by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care shows that there were 34,203 finished admission episodes in 2008-09 where the primary diagnosis was "degeneration of macula and posterior pole". Counts of finished admission episodes are not the same as counts of patients, as a single patient may be admitted more than once in a single year.

Financial data on the costs of treatment of age-related macular degeneration are not collected centrally.

### Muscular Dystrophy

**Paul Maynard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if his Department will seek to meet the recently published international standards of care for Duchenne muscular dystrophy; [4317]

(2) if his Department will publish a national strategy for the care of Duchenne muscular dystrophy patients; [4319]

(3) what services are available for young people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy during their transition from paediatric to adult services. [4320]

**Mr Burstow:** It is the responsibility of health and care professionals, working in conjunction with patients and their families, to arrange the most appropriate health and social care for those living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The National Service Framework for long-term conditions (the NSF) provides an overview of how this care should be provided. The eleven quality requirements of the NSF are compatible with more condition specific standards of care, such as the international TREAT-NMD recommendations for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

We have no plans to publish a national strategy for the care of people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The NSF's quality requirements apply equally to Duchenne muscular dystrophy as they do for any other neuromuscular condition. The NSF covers all aspects of care from assessment, through diagnosis, information/education, treatment and support, to end of life decisions and palliative care.

Those living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy should continue to be able to access the full range of health and social care services during the transition from paediatric to adulthood. It is the responsibility of local health bodies and health professionals to ensure transition to adult services does not result in a deterioration in available services.

### NHS

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for *(a)* the publication of the Health White Paper and the related introduction of associated legislative proposals and *(b)* the introduction of the proposed independent NHS Board. [4866]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The "Coalition: our programme for government" document confirms this Government's intention to establish an independent NHS Board to allocate resources and provide commissioning guidelines. The Queen's Speech also confirmed that there would be a Health Bill in this parliamentary Session. We will bring forward more detailed proposals in due course.

### NHS: ICT

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on information technology in 2009. [4412]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Information technology (IT) expenditure reported by the national health service in the 2008-09 financial year amounted to £1,624 million, broken down as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Strategic health authorities | 27 |
| Primary care trusts | 682 |
| NHS trusts | 915 |

These figures comprise revenue expenditure (£1,363 million) reported through an annual national survey of IT investment, and capital expenditure (£261 million), including software licences, identified in NHS Accounts and reported by foundation trusts. They do not include expenditure by special health authorities or central expenditure funded by the Department.

The National programme for IT expenditure on behalf of the NHS for the 2008-09 financial year amounted to £1,063 million comprising revenue expenditure (£528 million) and capital expenditure (£535 million) of which includes non information management and technology associated costs.

Note:

Figures rounded to the nearest whole £ million

**Mike Weatherley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS IT projects undertaken by companies with headquarters outside the UK in 2009. [4792]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Comprehensive information about information technology (IT) procurements by national health service organisations is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The spend by the Department for the National programme for IT in the 2009-10 financial year is given in the following table.

*Table: Spend on projects undertaken by companies with headquarters outside the UK*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Accenture | 10.04 |
| Atos | 33.75 |
| Atos Consulting Ltd | 1.36 |
| Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd | 2.80 |
| Cable and Wireless UK | 23.50 |
| CSC | 213.00 |
| CSC Computer Science | 0.23 |
| Fujitsu | 37.26 |
| Fujitsu Services | 0.40 |
| Total | 322.36 |

*Note:*

These figures are inclusive of VAT and rounded to the nearest £ million.

### NHS: Translation Services

**Mr Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by the NHS on translation services in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; when his Department last reviewed its level of expenditure on such services; and if he will make a statement. [4841]

**Mr Burstow:** National health service bodies are not required to report their planned or actual spending on interpretation and translation services to the Department. When planning such services, NHS bodies should take due account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

### Respite Care

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department allocated to each primary care trust for carer's breaks in each of the last four years; what records his Department maintains of the ways in which primary care trusts deploy such funding; and if he will make a statement. [3471]

**Mr Burstow:** The previous Government made £150 million available within primary care trust (PCT) allocations (£50 million in 2009-10 and £100 million in 2010-11) to enable them to provide breaks for carers. Although this was new money, it was not ring-fenced and no mechanisms were put in place to ensure that the money was spent on carers. The £150 million formed part of PCTs' overall total allocations and PCTs were not provided individual sums for breaks.

The NHS Operating Framework for 2010-11 distinguishes the national 'must dos' from those areas where local organisations should set their priorities based on local needs. Supporting carers has been an area identified for PCTs to choose to prioritise for local action and agree funding with local partner organisations. As such, the Department maintains no central records of how much each PCT spends on supporting carers.

## EDUCATION

### Departmental Mobile Phones

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education which Ministers in his Department have been issued with *(a)* a BlackBerry, *(b)* an iPhone, *(c)* another make of mobile telephone and *(d)* a personal digital assistant supplied by the Department. [1433]

**Tim Loughton:** All five Ministers at this Department have been issued with one BlackBerry each. No iPhones, mobile phones or personal digital assistants have been issued to Ministers.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3207]

**Tim Loughton:** There are no civil servants or special advisers entitled to the use of (a) a car with a dedicated driver or (b) a car from the Government car pool.

Civil servants and special advisers are discouraged from using a taxi unless there are special circumstances. These are:

When there is no public transport available, especially when travelling early in the morning or late at night before public transport starts or is running regularly.

When he/she has a temporary or permanent disability.

When he/she has heavy luggage to carry.

When it is more important that he/she saves official time.

When he/she is in an unfamiliar town and is uncertain of public transport.

When he/she is concerned for his/her physical safety.

### Special Educational Needs

**Stella Creasy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of students at *(a)* academy and *(b)* non-academy schools in each education authority had a statement of special educational needs in the academic year 2009-10. [4788]

**Sarah Teather** *[holding answer 29 June 2010]:* The information requested is shown in the following table.

*Academies and LA maintained secondary schools[1]: Number of pupils with statements of special educational needs[2] January 2010 (final)*
*Government Office Region and local authority area in England*

| | Academies | | | LA maintained secondary | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Pupils with statements* | *Pupils on roll* | *Percentage of pupils with statements* | *Pupils with statements* | *Pupils on roll* | *Percentage of pupils with statements* |
| *England[3]* | 4,210 | 193,280 | 2.2 | 59,390 | 3,055,420 | 1.9 |
| | | | | | | |
| *North East[3]* | 320 | 11,120 | 2.9 | 2,980 | 156,870 | 1.9 |
| Darlington | [4]— | 574 | [4]— | 88 | 5,314 | 1.7 |
| Durham | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 502 | 30,467 | 1.6 |
| Gateshead | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 233 | 11,376 | 2.0 |
| Hartlepool | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 121 | 6,234 | 1.9 |
| Middlesbrough | 94 | 3,328 | 2.8 | 121 | 4,941 | 2.4 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 11 | 1,165 | 0.9 | 227 | 14,813 | 1.5 |
| North Tyneside | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 290 | 13,202 | 2.2 |
| Northumberland | 161 | 3,637 | 4.4 | 641 | 25,628 | 2.5 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 162 | 9,366 | 1.7 |
| South Tyneside | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 136 | 9,066 | 1.5 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 209 | 11,340 | 1.8 |
| Sunderland | 54 | 2,412 | 2.2 | 245 | 15,125 | 1.6 |
| | | | | | | |
| *North West[3]* | 470 | 23,160 | 2.0 | 8,400 | 410,820 | 2.0 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 15 | 771 | 1.9 | 229 | 8,685 | 2.6 |
| Blackpool | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 83 | 7,897 | 1.1 |
| Bolton | 16 | 1,681 | 1.0 | 351 | 17,229 | 2.0 |
| Bury | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 334 | 11,117 | 3.0 |
| Cheshire East | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 532 | 22,337 | 2.4 |
| Cheshire West and Chester | 53 | 1,224 | 4.3 | 439 | 20,432 | 2.1 |
| Cumbria | 128 | 4,673 | 2.7 | 665 | 28,903 | 2.3 |
| Halton | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 150 | 7,536 | 2.0 |
| Knowsley | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 162 | 7,497 | 2.2 |
| Lancashire | 65 | 2,003 | 3.2 | 1,577 | 67,321 | 2.3 |
| Liverpool | 10 | 2,747 | 0.4 | 243 | 28,019 | 0.9 |
| Manchester | 83 | 4,394 | 1.9 | 493 | 19,006 | 2.6 |
| Oldham | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 227 | 15,918 | 1.4 |
| Rochdale | 20 | 600 | 3.3 | 296 | 12,095 | 2.4 |
| Salford | 18 | 1,163 | 1.5 | 108 | 9,783 | 1.1 |
| Sefton | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 205 | 19,176 | 1.1 |
| St. Helens | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 107 | 10,661 | 1.0 |
| Stockport | 22 | 711 | 3.1 | 401 | 13,954 | 2.9 |
| Tameside | 36 | 2,446 | 1.5 | 162 | 11,861 | 1.4 |
| Trafford | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 289 | 16,562 | 1.7 |
| Warrington | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 439 | 13,318 | 3.3 |
| Wigan | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 431 | 19,114 | 2.3 |
| Wirral | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 477 | 22,400 | 2.1 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Yorkshire and The Humber[3]* | 400 | 21,950 | 1.8 | 5,400 | 309,230 | 1.7 |
| Barnsley | 18 | 532 | 3.4 | 287 | 12,388 | 2.3 |
| Bradford | 79 | 4,068 | 1.9 | 447 | 29,884 | 1.5 |
| Calderdale | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 391 | 15,391 | 2.5 |
| Doncaster | 40 | 3,136 | 1.3 | 236 | 17,357 | 1.4 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 442 | 22,630 | 2.0 |
| Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 38 | 1,864 | 2.0 | 184 | 11,832 | 1.6 |
| Kirklees | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 506 | 25,872 | 2.0 |
| Leeds | 24 | 2,932 | 0.8 | 593 | 42,800 | 1.4 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 81 | 2,582 | 3.1 | 211 | 7,009 | 3.0 |
| North Lincolnshire | 24 | 597 | 4.0 | 308 | 9,335 | 3.3 |
| North Yorkshire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 524 | 40,249 | 1.3 |
| Rotherham | 15 | 1,218 | 1.2 | 294 | 18,156 | 1.6 |
| Sheffield | 39 | 2,849 | 1.4 | 443 | 27,543 | 1.6 |
| Wakefield | 39 | 2,168 | 1.8 | 397 | 18,851 | 2.1 |
| York | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 141 | 9,931 | 1.4 |

*Academies and LA maintained secondary schools[1]: Number of pupils with statements of special educational needs[2] January 2010 (final)*
*Government Office Region and local authority area in England*

| | Academies | | | LA maintained secondary | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Pupils with statements* | *Pupils on roll* | *Percentage of pupils with statements* | *Pupils with statements* | *Pupils on roll* | *Percentage of pupils with statements* |
| *East Midlands[3]* | 490 | 20,790 | 2.4 | 4,830 | 271,770 | 1.8 |
| Derby | 11 | 1,097 | 1.0 | 192 | 15,165 | 1.3 |
| Derbyshire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 1,013 | 48,390 | 2.1 |
| Leicester | 22 | 776 | 2.8 | 288 | 17,157 | 1.7 |
| Leicestershire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 1,033 | 45,506 | 2.3 |
| Lincolnshire | 242 | 6,857 | 3.5 | 982 | 41,393 | 2.4 |
| Northamptonshire | 200 | 6,088 | 3.3 | 987 | 41,700 | 2.4 |
| Nottingham | 12 | 5,220 | 0.2 | 50 | 9,513 | 0.5 |
| Nottinghamshire | [4]— | 747 | [4]— | 202 | 50,574 | 0.4 |
| Rutland | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 78 | 2,372 | 3.3 |
| | | | | | | |
| *West Midlands[3]* | 350 | 20,600 | 1.7 | 6,980 | 338,580 | 2.1 |
| Birmingham | 53 | 2,816 | 1.9 | 1,400 | 66,266 | 2.1 |
| Coventry | 9 | 710 | 1.3 | 299 | 19,168 | 1.6 |
| Dudley | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 416 | 19,694 | 2.1 |
| Herefordshire | 23 | 1,021 | 2.3 | 185 | 9,037 | 2.0 |
| Sandwell | 74 | 6,059 | 1.2 | 282 | 14,267 | 2.0 |
| Shropshire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 539 | 16,832 | 3.2 |
| Solihull | 58 | 3,781 | 1.5 | 294 | 13,239 | 2.2 |
| Staffordshire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 964 | 56,279 | 1.7 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 377 | 13,105 | 2.9 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 45 | 1,572 | 2.9 | 237 | 8,965 | 2.6 |
| Walsall | 37 | 3,248 | 1.1 | 283 | 17,473 | 1.6 |
| Warwickshire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 630 | 33,602 | 1.9 |
| Wolverhampton | 42 | 736 | 5.7 | 327 | 14,562 | 2.2 |
| Worcestershire | 11 | 661 | 1.7 | 747 | 36,094 | 2.1 |
| | | | | | | |
| *East of England[3]* | 480 | 16,390 | 3.0 | 7,760 | 370,570 | 2.1 |
| Bedford | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 294 | 14,872 | 2.0 |
| Central Bedfordshire | 8 | 525 | 1.5 | 437 | 21,560 | 2.0 |
| Cambridgeshire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 850 | 32,373 | 2.6 |
| Essex | 197 | 7,145 | 2.8 | 1,716 | 81,883 | 2.1 |
| Hertfordshire | 21 | 1,613 | 1.3 | 888 | 78,714 | 1.1 |
| Luton | 22 | 1,721 | 1.3 | 221 | 10,573 | 2.1 |
| Norfolk | 68 | 1,128 | 6.0 | 1,529 | 48,372 | 3.2 |
| Peterborough | 114 | 2,832 | 4.0 | 280 | 10,345 | 2.7 |
| Southend-on-Sea | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 183 | 13,000 | 1.4 |
| Suffolk | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 1,138 | 51,422 | 2.2 |
| Thurrock | 54 | 1,427 | 3.8 | 227 | 7,453 | 3.0 |
| | | | | | | |
| *London[3]* | 980 | 43,620 | 2.2 | 8,880 | 406,510 | 2.2 |
| | | | | | | |
| *Inner London[3]* | 600 | 23,290 | 2.6 | 3,010 | 117,040 | 2.6 |
| Camden | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 317 | 9,892 | 3.2 |
| City of London | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— |
| Hackney | 131 | 2,525 | 5.2 | 147 | 6,026 | 2.4 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 13 | 892 | 1.5 | 136 | 6,159 | 2.2 |
| Haringey | 14 | 1,043 | 1.3 | 385 | 12,162 | 3.2 |
| Islington | 47 | 1,500 | 3.1 | 107 | 6,413 | 1.7 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 7 | 162 | 4.3 | 78 | 3,434 | 2.3 |
| Lambeth | 42 | 1,281 | 3.3 | 271 | 8,466 | 3.2 |
| Lewisham | 82 | 3,786 | 2.2 | 259 | 10,279 | 2.5 |
| Newham | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 233 | 17,970 | 1.3 |
| Southwark | 165 | 7,373 | 2.2 | 173 | 5,734 | 3.0 |
| Tower Hamlets | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 500 | 14,783 | 3.4 |
| Wandsworth | 25 | 1,107 | 2.3 | 241 | 10,387 | 2.3 |
| Westminster | 69 | 3,623 | 1.9 | 159 | 5,335 | 3.0 |

*Academies and LA maintained secondary schools[1]: Number of pupils with statements of special educational needs[2] January 2010 (final)*
*Government Office Region and local authority area in England*

| | Academies | | | LA maintained secondary | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Pupils with statements* | *Pupils on roll* | *Percentage of pupils with statements* | *Pupils with statements* | *Pupils on roll* | *Percentage of pupils with statements* |
| *Outer London[3]* | 390 | 20,330 | 1.9 | 5,870 | 289,470 | 2.0 |
| Barking and Dagenham | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 303 | 13,013 | 2.3 |
| Barnet | 48 | 1,718 | 2.8 | 434 | 19,798 | 2.2 |
| Bexley | 57 | 2,596 | 2.2 | 343 | 17,347 | 2.0 |
| Brent | 57 | 2,732 | 2.1 | 346 | 15,241 | 2.3 |
| Bromley | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 527 | 22,638 | 2.3 |
| Croydon | 54 | 5,088 | 1.1 | 219 | 15,024 | 1.5 |
| Ealing | 22 | 1,450 | 1.5 | 304 | 16,415 | 1.9 |
| Enfield | 35 | 1,696 | 2.1 | 356 | 20,539 | 1.7 |
| Greenwich | 36 | 790 | 4.6 | 467 | 13,639 | 3.4 |
| Harrow | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 190 | 9,967 | 1.9 |
| Havering | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 263 | 16,655 | 1.6 |
| Hillingdon | 28 | 1,754 | 1.6 | 256 | 16,780 | 1.5 |
| Hounslow | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 246 | 16,561 | 1.5 |
| Kingston upon Thames | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 160 | 9,960 | 1.6 |
| Merton | 38 | 1,665 | 2.3 | 165 | 6,888 | 2.4 |
| Redbridge | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 400 | 21,624 | 1.8 |
| Richmond upon Thames | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 255 | 6,649 | 3.8 |
| Sutton | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 311 | 16,775 | 1.9 |
| Waltham Forest | 11 | 839 | 1.3 | 329 | 13,960 | 2.4 |
| | | | | | | |
| *South East[3]* | 470 | 24,700 | 1.9 | 8,430 | 480,230 | 1.8 |
| Bracknell Forest | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 161 | 6,330 | 2.5 |
| Brighton and Hove | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 251 | 12,160 | 2.1 |
| Buckinghamshire | 11 | 726 | 1.5 | 544 | 33,998 | 1.6 |
| East Sussex | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 571 | 27,418 | 2.1 |
| Hampshire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 857 | 69,678 | 1.2 |
| Isle of Wight | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 215 | 11,436 | 1.9 |
| Kent | 241 | 10,785 | 2.2 | 1,346 | 88,544 | 1.5 |
| Medway | 26 | 1,346 | 1.9 | 343 | 17,946 | 1.9 |
| Milton Keynes | 24 | 1,167 | 2.1 | 275 | 15,507 | 1.8 |
| Oxfordshire | 33 | 1,588 | 2.1 | 660 | 34,197 | 1.9 |
| Portsmouth | 9 | 361 | 2.5 | 156 | 8,595 | 1.8 |
| Reading | 27 | 897 | 3.0 | 117 | 5,448 | 2.1 |
| Slough | 20 | 1,090 | 1.8 | 134 | 8,868 | 1.5 |
| Southampton | 13 | 1,650 | 0.8 | 72 | 8,664 | 0.8 |
| Surrey | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 1,198 | 59,584 | 2.0 |
| West Berkshire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 290 | 12,067 | 2.4 |
| West Sussex | 69 | 5,092 | 1.4 | 737 | 39,495 | 1.9 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 265 | 10,123 | 2.6 |
| Wokingham | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 237 | 10,170 | 2.3 |
| | | | | | | |
| *South West[3]* | 250 | 10,960 | 2.3 | 5,740 | 310,840 | 1.8 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 186 | 12,518 | 1.5 |
| Bournemouth | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 121 | 9,742 | 1.2 |
| Bristol, City of | 132 | 5,411 | 2.4 | 303 | 11,668 | 2.6 |
| Cornwall | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 818 | 31,859 | 2.6 |
| Devon | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 1,115 | 42,628 | 2.6 |
| Dorset | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 463 | 29,697 | 1.6 |
| Gloucestershire | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 608 | 39,710 | 1.5 |
| Isles of Scilly | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— |
| North Somerset | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 134 | 12,749 | 1.1 |
| Plymouth | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 406 | 17,894 | 2.3 |
| Poole | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 99 | 8,296 | 1.2 |
| Somerset | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 279 | 31,245 | 0.9 |
| South Gloucestershire | 57 | 3,501 | 1.6 | 283 | 14,875 | 1.9 |
| Swindon | 47 | 1,421 | 3.3 | 220 | 10,967 | 2.0 |

*Academies and LA maintained secondary schools[1]: Number of pupils with statements of special educational needs[2] January 2010 (final) Government Office Region and local authority area in England*

| | Academies | | | LA maintained secondary | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Pupils with statements* | *Pupils on roll* | *Percentage of pupils with statements* | *Pupils with statements* | *Pupils on roll* | *Percentage of pupils with statements* |
| Torbay | [5]— | [5]— | [5]— | 226 | 8,582 | 2.6 |
| Wiltshire | 12 | 625 | 1.9 | 475 | 28,412 | 1.7 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed but excludes city technology colleges.

[2] Excludes dual registrations.

[3] National and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between totals and the sum of constituent parts.

[4] Fewer than five pupils.

[5] No schools of this type.

*Source:*

School Census

### Young People: Voluntary Organisations

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what changes he has made to the Youth Sector Development Fund; what his policy is on the future role of the Fund; and if he will make a statement. [4081]

**Tim Loughton:** The Youth Sector Development Fund (YSDF) seeks to build the capacity and sustainability of Civil Society organisations delivering services to young people. 43 organisations currently receive YSDF support under the terms of grant agreements that expire in March 2011.

Plans to extend the programme in 2010-11 have not been carried forward and the savings that resulted formed part of the £6.2 billion savings announced on 24 May 2010.

Future policy on YSDF will be determined in due course as part of the forthcoming spending review.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

12. **Ms Ritchie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has for the introduction of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. [4218]

**Mr Swire:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Garston and Halewood (Maria Eagle).

### Local Government

**Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the First Minister on the effects of proposals for reorganisation of local government in Northern Ireland. [4216]

**Mr Swire:** Following confirmation from the Executive that the reorganisation of local government in 2011 will not now go ahead, I have written to the First and deputy First Ministers to express my disappointment at this outcome and to confirm that elections will now be held to the existing 26 councils next year.

### Northern Ireland Assembly

**David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Ulster Unionist Party on the forthcoming elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly; and if he will make a statement. [4217]

**Mr Paterson:** As Secretary of State I have had discussions with all Northern Ireland political parties on a range of issues relevant to the ongoing political process.

### Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

**Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has received on changes to parliamentary constituency boundaries in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [4213]

**Mr Paterson:** The Government have announced that legislation will be introduced to provide for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies. Further details will be announced in due course, and Parliament will have the opportunity to debate the provisions in full. No representations have been received regarding changes to parliamentary constituency boundaries in Northern Ireland.

## TREASURY

### Child Tax Credit: Stirling

**Mrs McGuire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Stirling constituency claim child tax credit. [4116]

**Mr Gauke:** The latest information on the number of families with children who receive Child and Working Tax Credits, by each parliamentary constituency, is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2010", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr2010.pdf

### EU Grants and Loans

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that sufficient UK match funding will be available to enable *(a)* the delivery of the EU convergence programme and *(b)* draw down of budgeted EU structural funding. [4419]

**Justine Greening:** The emergency Budget set the overall path for the public finances to 2015-16. Departmental allocations will be set at the spending review, after which we will be in a position to make spending decisions including for match funding for EU Structural Funds. The spending review will be published on 20 October and will cover the four-year period from April 2011 to March 2015.

### Government Departments: Procurement

**Dr Pugh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of extending the role of the Office of Government Commerce in *(a)* the provision of contract management advice to government departments and *(b)* monitoring the performance of major suppliers under such contracts. [4339]

**Mr Maude:** I have been asked to reply.

The recently announced Efficiency Reform Group (ERG), which includes the Office of Government Commerce, will provide a stronger central focus on achieving efficiency savings, including through better contract management and monitoring the performance of suppliers.

### Ministerial Statements

**John Healey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedures apply to the length of time between a Minister in his Department making a Statement to the House and publication of that Statement on his Department's website; and when the Statement made on *(a)* 17 June 2010 and *(b)* 22 June 2010 will be published on the website. [4445]

**Justine Greening:** HM Treasury publishes Treasury Ministers' oral statements as soon as possible. Oral statements for the dates referred to were published on the Treasury website on the day they were made.

### Personal Income

**Liz Kendall:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will publish estimates of the likely effect of direct tax, indirect tax and benefit and tax credit changes announced in Budget 2010 as an absolute amount by income decile by 2012-13, excluding both the effect of the 50 per cent. additional income tax rate and the effect of the increase in employee national insurance contributions introduced in April 2010; [4642]

(2) with reference to chart A1 of Budget 2010, whether his Department's analysis of the effect of direct tax, indirect tax and benefit and tax credit changes by income decile includes *(a)* the 50 per cent. additional rate of income tax and *(b)* the increase in employee national insurance contributions introduced in April 2010. [4643]

**Mr Gauke:** Analysis has been published in the Red Book showing the impact of measures to be in place in 2012-13 compared with those in place today. The Government believe that as they have chosen to retain some of the policies they have inherited while reversing other decisions that this is the most appropriate way to present the impact of June 2010 Budget decisions.

The policies that were introduced in April 2010, for example the 50% additional rate of income tax, are already included in the baseline and so they will have no impact when compared with April 2012.

A full list of policies included in the analysis is included on pages 11-12 of the Data Sources document published alongside the June 2010 Budget, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

### Pregnant Women: Grants

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many women in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority received the Health in Pregnancy grant in each year since its inception. [4832]

**Justine Greening:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Rutherglen and Hamilton West (Tom Greatrex) on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 502W.

### Revenue and Customs: Great Yarmouth

**Brandon Lewis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the decision of HM Revenue and Customs to relocate jobs held by staff at Havenbridge House in Great Yarmouth to Norwich for the purpose of retaining those jobs in Great Yarmouth. [4716]

**Mr Gauke:** The decision in December 2008 to close the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Great Yarmouth was made after extensive consultation and detailed feasibility work under the previous Government. There are no plans to revisit the decision and the office is expected to close for business during 2010-11. HMRC is committed to providing face to face advice for customers in Great Yarmouth at or near the existing location for those customers who need it.

### Sheffield Forgemasters: Finance

**Mr Betts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the amount of revenue accruing to the Exchequer that would have been paid in tax by employees in jobs created by the installation of a new press at Sheffield Forgemasters funded by the proposed £80 million Government loan; and if he will make a statement. [4498]

**Mr Gauke:** In order to estimate additional taxation revenue created by the projects, it would be necessary to consider net jobs created by the projects. This would take displacement of employment and taxation revenue from elsewhere into account.

Officials from the Department for Business are working with Sheffield Forgemasters to explore the possibility of raising private funding for this worthwhile project that does not make the existing shareholders worse off.

### Strategy Insurance Ltd

**Mr Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints *(a)* the Financial Services Authority and *(b)* the Financial Ombudsman Service has received on the activities of Strategy Insurance Limited in each of the last 10 years; and if he will publish (i) details of each investigation and (ii) their conclusions. [3866]

**Mr Hoban** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is the independent regulator for the financial services industry in the UK and the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) is an independent body resolving financial services disputes.

I understand that Strategy Insurance Limited is not authorised by the FSA and is not covered by the FOS's compulsory or voluntary jurisdiction.

### Tax Allowances: Video Games

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to introduce a tax relief scheme for the video games industry. [3536]

**Mr Gauke:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget statement that the Government will not introduce a tax relief for the UK video games industry.

The Budget announced a package of reforms to business taxation, reducing rates of corporation tax for all companies. Companies in all sectors will benefit from these changes, including those in the video games industry.

### Taxation: Business

**Mrs McGuire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Stirling constituency had used the Time to Pay programme operated by HM Revenue and Customs on the most recent date for which figures are available. [4070]

**Mr Gauke:** HMRC collates information on the number and value of Time to Pay arrangements granted through the Business Payment Support Service (BPSS). Data on the number of businesses using the service are not readily available at constituency level. At any point in time a business may have more than one arrangement covering its different tax liabilities. A business may be granted a number of successive arrangements.

Between 24 November 2008 and 20 June 2010, 510 arrangements spreading payments covering tax debts worth £7.4 million have been granted to businesses within the constituency of Stirling following contact with the BPSS.

### VAT: Churches

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the Listed Places of Worship scheme. [4254]

**John Penrose:** I have been asked to reply.

The Listed Places of Worship (LPW) scheme, which makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in use as places of worship, is expected to make grants of around £15 million UK-wide in 2010-11. I acknowledge the scheme's significant role in helping to keep our listed ecclesiastical buildings in a good state of repair. A decision on the scheme's future beyond the end of 2010-11 can only be made as part of the 2010 spending review, and will be publicised as soon as is possible.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the administrative cost of processing the proposed changes to the level of earnings disregard for tax credits. [4657]

**Mr Gauke:** The preliminary estimate of the administrative costs of introducing the reduction in the earnings disregard is estimated to be in the range of £1 million to £3 million per year.

This achieves an Exchequer saving in the costs of paying tax credits rising to £420 million in 2014-15, as set out in line 43 of Table 2.1 in Budget 2010, HC 61, 22 June 2010.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of persons likely to be affected by the proposal to changes to the level of earnings disregard for tax credits. [4658]

**Justine Greening:** The disregard for income rises will be reduced from £25,000 to £10,000 in 2011-12, and then to £5,000 in 2013-14.

Based on information on finalised 2008-09 tax credit awards and the number of income changes reported in that year, it is estimated that around 155,000 families will have an income rise of more than £10,000, and 275,000 families will have an income rise between £5,000 to £10,000.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Consultants

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent meetings Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the think tanks *(a)* Localis and *(b)* Policy Exchange. [4441]

**Grant Shapps:** Since the Coalition Government was formed, no CLG Minister has met with representatives of either *(a)* Localis or *(b)* Policy Exchange.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3655]

**Robert Neill:** There is a core of procurement staff (23) within the Department's corporate procurement division (CPD) plus a total of 17 further staff with delegated authority in communications and research areas who will involve numerous stakeholders within different business units to undertake the negotiations and make decisions. The Department's target for savings in 2010-11 is £50 million. As existing officials are primarily involved in renegotiation no additional expenditure is expected. Negotiations are currently taking place and are expected to be concluded by the end of the current financial year.

### Estate Agents

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent meetings Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the estate agency industry. [4444]

**Grant Shapps:** Since the Coalition Government was formed, no CLG Minister has met with representatives of the estate agency industry.

### Housing Benefit: Homlessness

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effect of proposed changes to the payment of housing benefit on *(a)* levels of homelessness and *(b)* demand for affordable housing in each of the next five years. [4551]

**Grant Shapps:** Ministers from this Department regularly meet with their colleagues in other Departments including those at the Department for Work and Pensions to discuss cross cutting issues.

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the June 2010 Budget, what his most recent estimate is of the effect on the level of homelessness of the proposed changes to housing benefit; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse. [4679]

**Grant Shapps:** The Department for Work and Pensions undertakes an assessment of the impact on specific groups as part of the policy development process. DWP will publish formal impact assessments in due course.

### Housing: Finance

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Financial Statement of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 116-30, how much of the future funding agreed before 24 May 2010 he now plans to allocate to expenditure on housing. [4531]

**Grant Shapps:** We are clear that having reviewed the overall financial position, the previous Government have left a large funding black hole in their plans for social housing. This Government, as part of their plans to tackle this funding black hole, have chosen to recycle £170 million of the £6.2 billion of efficiency savings announced last month into social housing.

The Emergency Budget on 22 June set out further measures to deal with the budget deficit and give confidence to the economy. With regards to housing budgets we are continuing to review the position with HM Treasury and will be reaching a conclusion soon.

### Local Government Finance

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects the local government finance review to *(a)* commence and *(b)* conclude. [4896]

**Robert Neill:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Nottingham East (Chris Leslie) on 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 132W.

### Local Government Finance: Stockton

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS, on the local government savings package, what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the provision of services in Stockton of changes to his Department's funding allocation in 2010-11. [4578]

**Robert Neill:** We have asked local authorities to make a contribution of £1.166 billion to the £6.2 billion of cross-Government savings in 2010-11 to enable the Government to take immediate action to start to tackle the fiscal deficit. Of this, £358.5 million will come from my Department's budget and £175.0 million will come from the budget which my Department holds on behalf of Government as a whole.

The reduction in grants for individual local authorities for which final allocations had been announced is set out in the document made available to the House at the time of the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS.

Local authorities are free to make their own decisions about where savings are found. We have ensured that councils have the flexibility to take decisions locally on how to deliver the savings needed without impacting on essential frontline services.

### Non-domestic Rates: Garages and Petrol Stations

**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment has been made of the appropriateness of the methodology for calculating business rates for petrol stations. [4299]

**Mr Gauke:** I have been asked to reply.

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) keeps all its rating methodologies under constant review to ensure they provide accurate valuations.

Following meetings with representatives of the petrol station industry, in which new information was provided, adjustments have been made to some of the figures used within the methodology for valuing petrol stations for non-domestic rating purposes. As a result the VOA will shortly be issuing revised valuations.

### Social Rented Housing: Rents

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to ease restrictions on rent rises for *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations. [4442]

**Grant Shapps:** There are no current plans to ease restrictions on rent rises.

### Urban Areas: Sustainable Development

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial and other support his Department has provided to local authorities that have bid successfully for the establishment of an eco-town or eco-development in their area in the last 12 months. [4443]

**Grant Shapps:** Local authorities at the locations with potential to have an eco-town have received the 2009-10 funding announced in the Department's press release of 8 February 2010:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://
www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1459501

A copy of the press release is available in the Library of the House.

Over the last year the Department has also worked with other government Departments to identify support from their programmes for these local authorities.

### Wind Power: Planning Permission

**Eric Ollerenshaw:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals for a minimum required distance from residential dwellings in respect of the construction of wind farms. [5009]

**Robert Neill:** Current planning policy does not include an exclusion zone between wind turbines and housing. Rather, each wind farm proposal is assessed on a case by case basis according to its impacts. Looking ahead, we will radically reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live. In the Coalition Agreement we also said that we will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. We will make an announcement shortly on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### British Overseas Territories

**Dr Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider the merits of ending subsidies paid to *(a)* Bermuda and *(b)* the Virgin Islands for (i) the regulation of civil aviation and (ii) other services. [4348]

**Mr Bellingham:** There are no direct subsidies paid to either Bermuda or the British Virgin Islands (BVI) in respect of the regulation of civil aviation services. The Department for Transport funds Air Safety Support International (ASSI), a subsidiary of the Civil Aviation Authority, which is responsible for ensuring that the UK's obligations under the Convention on International Civil Aviation are met in the Overseas Territories. ASSI also regulates aviation activity in the British Virgin Islands under a contract with the BVI Government. The Department for Transport is currently reviewing the scope for obtaining funding for ASSI from the Overseas Territories.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office funds no ongoing or open-ended services in either territory. However, through the Overseas Territories Programme Fund (OTPF), it funds specific projects to support the delivery of the Government's objectives in all the Overseas Territories. In many cases these are also co-funded by the receiving territory. Ministers are reviewing expenditure under the OTPF.

### Departmental Manpower

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers are employed by his Department; and at what Civil Service pay grade in each such case. [1249]

**Alistair Burt:** I refer the hon. Member to the list of Special Adviser appointments published by the Prime Minister on 10 June, *Official Report*, columns 33-34W.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Press office in London is currently staffed by 22 press officers of the following grades: 1 x SMS, 7 x Band D, 9 x B and C, and 5 x B and B. In addition there are support staff who do not work as press officers.

### Departmental Official Cars

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3203]

**Alistair Burt:** No Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials or special advisers in the UK have a dedicated car or driver. Heads of Mission overseas are allocated a car for their official use. They have first call on the vehicle for official purposes but they are made available for other official business as required. The security situation in some countries may occasionally necessitate the use of dedicated vehicles for staff.

FCO Services, an executive agency of the FCO operating independently as a trading fund, operates a small pool of vehicles and security cleared drivers used mainly for transportation of diplomatic bags and other classified material. Certain senior officials (including the Permanent Under-Secretary) are able to draw on this pool for official and operationally necessary travel, on a pay-per-use basis with bookings made in advance. Use of the FCO Services car pool is subject to operational need and governed by strict internal guidelines.

FCO staff travel by the most efficient means of transport, bearing in mind the operational requirement and the need to secure value for money for the public purse. Public transport is used whenever possible and staff avoid using taxis on official business unless it is absolutely necessary.

Staff should not normally use a taxi at public expense between home and office—nor between airports and central London—except for journeys during the hours when public transport is not running. If it is absolutely necessary for staff to work after 9 pm or before 7 am, they may consider taking a taxi from their destination station to their home address or vice versa.

### Departmental Pay

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in 2009-10. [2179]

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) paid a total of £7,457,502 in non-consolidated, variable, performance related pay in 2009-10. This represents 2.6% of the total pay bill for UK based staff.

£1,052,271 was paid to staff employed by FCO Services, a trading fund of the FCO, and £61,029 to staff employed by Wilton Park, an executive agency of the FCO.

A close and effective link between pay and performance is a key element of the pay arrangements for the civil service. For the senior civil service (SCS), for whom pay is managed by the Cabinet Office and which is based on recommendations by the Senior Salaries Review Body, performance incentives are paid primarily as non-consolidated performance payments.

Non-consolidated, variable, performance related payments help drive continuing high performance as they must be re-earned each year. Performance is measured through the annual appraisal process which is designed specifically to help staff develop their potential and make the fullest contribution towards the achievement of FCO objectives.

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 22-3W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [3242]

**Alistair Burt:** The salary ranges of staff in the ministerial private offices are:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| A1 | 16,135-17,166 |
| A2 | 18,525-21,696 |
| B3 | 21,432-27,385 |
| C4 | 26,102-32,509 |
| D6 | 43,084-55,782 |
| D7 | 54,340-67,861 |
| SMS2 | 82,900-162,500 |

### Departmental Private Education

**Mr Hanson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on private or independent school education of children of serving staff in each of the last five years. [1625]

**Alistair Burt:** It is a condition of their employment that members of the Diplomatic Service (DS) must be prepared to serve anywhere in the world at any time during their career, sometimes at very short notice. Those with children have a legal obligation as parents to ensure that their children receive a full-time education from the age of five years. Members of the Diplomatic Service pay UK tax wherever they work and are entitled to have their children educated at public expense. Most parents prefer to take their children with them on posting, but in some countries we do not permit staff to take their children either for health or security reasons. In others, local schools of an acceptable standard are not available. Continuity of education is also an important factor, particularly at secondary level.

Children's education should not be disadvantaged by the fact that their parents are in the Diplomatic Service. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) helps staff meet their potentially conflicting obligations by providing financial support for their children's education in the UK where staff choose this, or are obliged to do so given local conditions in the country to which they are posted. We expect children who accompany their parents on postings overseas to use free state schooling if it is available locally and suitable. If suitable English-language schooling is not available free of charge locally, but is available at fee-charging schools, we refund fees to enable children to receive the education they would be entitled to in the UK. This provision applies to all our diverse DS staff posted overseas, including junior support staff and single parents.

Over the last five years the Department has paid for between 1,500 and 2,000 children of British diplomats to receive the education to which they are entitled, either in the UK or at local schools overseas. Expenditure in the UK has decreased in real terms as fewer families now choose boarding school but costs of schools overseas have increased as sterling has weakened. The costs are as follows:-

*Education in the UK*

| | (£) |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 9,399,215 |
| 2008-09 | 9,381,705 |
| 2007-08 | 8,951,104 |
| 2006-07 | 9,242,316 |
| 2005-06 | 9,361,407 |

*Education at local schools overseas*

| | (£) |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 11,535,667 |
| 2008-09 | 8,622,749 |
| 2007-08 | 7,157,772 |
| 2006-07 | 7,160,449 |
| 2005-06 | 6,696,235 |

### India: Human Trafficking

**Jeremy Lefroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of India on human trafficking. [4918]

**Alistair Burt:** We have not had any discussions with the Indian Government on the issue of human trafficking. However, through the European Commission, the EU has run three projects during the period 2000-10 on human trafficking in India, focussing on both inter-state trafficking in India and regional trafficking in South Asia.

## Iraq

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what projects in Iraq are being funded by his Department; what the budget is of each; and if he will make a statement. [4016]

**Alistair Burt:** The tri-departmental conflict pool's middle east programme, which is jointly managed by the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development, has an allocation of £6.8 million to support projects in Iraq in the current financial year. The objective of the middle east conflict pool is to support the development of effective and accountable public institutions to protect citizens and deliver services in Iraq. All three Departments deliver projects funded by the conflict pool. Projects to be delivered by the FCO in 2010-11 are:

| *Name* | *Allocation (£)* |
|---|---|
| Provision of justice and forensic advisers to support the Iraqi criminal justice system in its efforts to increase the use of forensic evidence and reduce reliance on confessions. (April 2010-March 2011) | 1,639,489 |
| Provision of secondees to the EU Integrated Rule of Law mission to Iraq (EUJUST LEX), which trains police, judiciary and penitentiary officers through workshops and secondments, with an emphasis on human rights. (April 2010-March 2011) | 365,000 |
| Supporting the Iraqi Parliament in the creation of scrutiny committees, which will lead to more thorough and rigorous scrutiny of the executive. (April 2010-March 2011) | 356,000 |
| Total | 2,360,489 |

In addition to conflict pool funded projects, the FCO also has an allocation of £147,555 for 2010-11 to deliver targeted projects aimed at enhancing bilateral relations with Iraq. Previous projects include training for journalists, a human rights public awareness campaign and an electoral awareness project.

## Middle East: Weapons of Mass Destruction

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the creation of a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone. [4902]

**Alistair Burt:** The agreement at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to hold a regional conference in 2012 on a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone was an important step forward. It will allow all states in the region to play a role in the process. We are committed to working constructively with all states in the region to ensure the conference is a success.

## Nuclear Disarmament: Treaties

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to encourage the drawing up of an international treaty to terminate the production of fissile material; and how many staff in his Department are assigned to work on that proposed treaty. [4790]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK continues to support and push for the immediate start of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) in the Conference on Disarmament. We are working with international partners to find a way forward and welcome proposals for the UN Secretary-General to convene a high level meeting in September 2010 in support of the work on the Conference on Disarmament.

My nuclear team works on FMCT, as well as colleagues from the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

## Sri Lanka: Human Rights

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to make representations to the Government of Sri Lanka on access to that country by the panel on human rights appointed by the UN. [4920]

**Alistair Burt:** We welcome the Secretary-General's announcement of a panel of experts to advise on best practices for investigations into the alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

We welcome the establishment of the Government of Sri Lanka's "Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission". It is important that this process be transparent and credible, and that it has the confidence of the people of Sri Lanka. The UN is well placed to assist the Government of Sri Lanka on such matters. We encourage it to consider drawing on the UN's knowledge to enhance its own domestic process.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 1 July 2010*

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Coroners

**Mr Raab:** To ask the Attorney-General in relation to how many defendants charged with criminal offences the Crown Prosecution Service has applications for the removal of the jury under Part 7 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 pending. [illegible]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Crown Prosecution Service has no applications pending for the removal of the jury under Part 7 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

The defence have notified the CPS of their intention to appeal in a case in which an application has already been granted. The case involves one defendant.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Parliamentary Education Service

**Mr Amess:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission what materials the Parliamentary Education Service issues to *(a)* schools and *(b)* individual pupils; what publications the service plans to issue in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [5441]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The Education Service produces a range of materials about Parliament, the work of Members (of both Houses), and political literacy generally. All resources are provided free to schools. While many of the materials are suitable for use by individual pupils, they will primarily be used in the classroom. One publication targeted at pupils directly is the young person's guide entitled 'The Houses of Parliament', which is distributed to all school-aged visitors taking a tour of Parliament.

Resources currently in print include a new range of booklets carefully targeted at pupils from key stage 2 to key stage 4 (covering ages seven to 16) that are available for schools and Members to order. These can be used independently or as part of class study. Due for publication shortly is the last in this new series which will be a booklet for KS5 (16 to 18). There is also a set of four films on DVD, including the award winning 'Democracy? You Decide and You've Got the Power'. This will be updated shortly to reflect the 2010 general election result and is available with a teacher's booklet for three age groups. It is also available on Parliament's YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/UKParliament

The Education Service re-launched its website:

www.parliament.uk/education

in October 2008. This provides a variety of resources which can be used online and also downloaded, including all the printed publications together with information pages, lesson plans, films, games and activities. Users can also subscribe to a monthly electronic newsletter. The Education Service will provide materials on request to Members to support their work with schools.

Plans for the next 12 months include further interactive online resources including games and updating of existing material to reflect the result of the 2010 election. In September 2010 a new film explaining the general election will be made available to schools, replacing an existing one from the previous election.

### House of Commons Staff: Pay

**Helen Jones:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission how many officers of the House are paid salaries at a level higher than that of hon. Members. [4536]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 293W to the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous). All the staff listed there are officers of the House.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Electoral Systems

**Helen Jones:** To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what plans the Electoral Commission has to publish information on different voting systems in advance of his proposed referendum on electoral reform. [5472]

**Mr Streeter:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it would expect to provide public information in advance of any referendum on changes to the electoral system. This is likely to include information on what the referendum is about and how to take part in the referendum. The extent and nature of any public information provided by the Commission would be determined by the relevant legislation.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Accidents: Liverpool

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Health and Safety Executive to publish its report on the collapse of a crane on to flats at Chandlers Wharf, Liverpool; and if he will make a statement. [5154]

**Chris Grayling:** This incident is still under investigation by inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Until HSE has made a decision as to possible legal action, they are not in a position to release a report.

### Carer's Allowance

**Bridget Phillipson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will increase the level of the carer's allowance to £65.45 per week; [3975]

(2) if he will increase the carer's allowance earnings threshold to £150 per week. [3976]

**Maria Miller:** The Government have no immediate plans to increase the level of carer's allowance or the carer's allowance earnings limit.

We have set out our commitment to modernise and simplify the benefit system in order to improve work incentives and encourage responsibility and fairness. We will consider carefully the needs of carers as we develop our thinking on welfare reform.

The Chancellor announced in the emergency Budget that from 2011 the Consumer Price Index (CPI) will be used to measure the growth in prices for the purposes of uprating carer's allowance. In keeping with its promise to protect people in the most vulnerable situations the Government will not implement the previous Government's policy of clawing back the 1.5% "advance" that was applied to carer's allowance in April 2010.

We believe that the CPI is a more appropriate and stable measure of the cost of living for recipients of carer's allowance. Under that index carer's allowance would have received an increase in 2010, not simply an "advance" of future potential increases.

### Departmental Legislation

**John Healey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials of his Department are working on preparations for the *(a)* Pensions and Savings Bill and *(b)* Welfare Bill. [5114]

**Chris Grayling:** As at 30 June 2010, there is one full-time equivalent working on the Pensions and Savings Bill and one full-time equivalent working on the Welfare Bill.

These people draw on additional legal and policy teams as necessary. As preparations progress we expect to increase the number of officials engaged full time on the Bills.

### Employment Schemes: Young People

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of young people who will not now be helped into employment following the Government's decision not to extend the Young Person's Guarantee. [5259]

**Chris Grayling:** The Young Person's Guarantee will be replaced next year by a new Work Programme. This will offer better targeted and integrated employment support to people who find themselves out of work, including young people. Unlike the Young Person's Guarantee, where young people are only eligible if they are claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, the new Work Programme will provide help to young people regardless of the benefit that they are claiming.

### Future Jobs Fund: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Ms Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Doncaster Central constituency, *(b)* Doncaster local authority area and *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber have found employment through the Future Jobs Fund since 2008; and what estimate he has made of the number of people aged between 18 and 24 years resident in each area who will no longer be entitled to assistance under the Jobs Guarantee in the 12 months after the ending of the Fund. [5431]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested on the Doncaster Central constituency and local authority area is not available. In the Yorkshire and Humber area the latest official statistics, covering the period from October 2009 to January 2010, show that 700 people were recorded as starting a job funded by the future jobs fund.

The Young Person's Guarantee will be replaced next year by a new Work Programme. This will offer better targeted and integrated employment support to people who find themselves out of work, including young people. Unlike the Young Person's Guarantee, where young people are eligible only if they are claiming jobseeker's allowance, the new Work Programme will provide help to young people regardless of the benefit that they are claiming.

### Housing Benefit: Tower Hamlets

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families resident in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets are in receipt of *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* housing benefit of over £250 per week for a one bedroom property, *(c)* housing benefit of over £290 per week for a two bedroom property, *(d)* housing benefit of over £340 per week for a three bedroom property and *(e)* housing benefit of over £400 per week for a property with four or more bedrooms. [4881]

**Steve Webb:** The National Statistics published in March 2010, show that in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets there were 35,570 housing benefit recipients, of which 5,200 were living in the private rented sector.

At March 2010, for housing benefit claims in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in the private rented sector assessed under the local housing allowance arrangements, our records show there were:

fewer than five recipients with a one-bedroom entitlement receiving over £250 per week;

530 recipients with a two-bedroom entitlement receiving over £290 per week;

180 recipients with a three-bedroom entitlement receiving over £340 per week; and

20 recipients with a four-bedroom entitlement receiving over £400 per week.

*Notes:*

1. With the exception of the figure for one-bedroom entitlement, all figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 recipients.

2. The single housing benefit extract does not have bedroom entitlement recorded in 13% of the local housing allowance cases in Tower Hamlets so there maybe some underestimation in the numbers reported.

*Source:*

Single Housing Benefit Extract

### Lone Parents: Employment

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents with disabled children of school age who returned to work in the last 12 months. [4999]

**Maria Miller:** The requested information is not available.

### New Deal Schemes: Disability

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people resident in Don Valley constituency have found employment through the New Deal in each year since 2001. [2741]

**Chris Grayling:** The information requested is in the following table.

*Jobs gained by disabled people[1] through New Deal from 2001 in the parliamentary constituency of Don Valley*

| | New Deal Young People | New Deal 25+ | New Deal Lone Parents | New Deal Disabled People | New Deal 50+[2] | New Deal Partner[3] | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 20 | * | * | * | n/a | n/a | 20 |
| 2002 | 10 | * | * | 10 | n/a | n/a | 30 |
| 2003 | 20 | * | * | 10 | 20 | n/a | 50 |
| 2004 | 10 | * | 10 | 40 | 20 | * | 80 |
| 2005 | 10 | * | * | 60 | 20 | * | 90 |
| 2006 | 10 | * | 10 | 70 | 10 | * | 90 |
| 2007 | 10 | * | 10 | 60 | 10 | * | 90 |
| 2008 | 10 | * | 10 | 90 | 10 | * | 130 |
| 2009[1] | * | * | 10 | 90 | 10 | * | 120 |
| Total | 100 | 10 | 50 | 430 | 100 | * | 690 |

"*" = Nil or negligible.

"n/a" = Not applicable.

[1] Disabled people are defined as those who are on the New Deal for Disabled people and those on other New Deals identified as disabled by the disability indicator.

[2] The information given is for the number of jobs gained through each spell on a New Deal.

[3] Since the introduction of Provider-Led Pathways to Work, New Deal for Disabled People has been available only in Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work districts. An individual who has had more than one spell on a New Deal may therefore appear more than once in the table. Information on spells on New Deal 50+ and New Deal for Partners is unavailable, so individual level information is given instead. This means that information is only given on one visit to each of these New Deals per individual.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding
3. The latest New Deal figures will be affected by the introduction of the new Jobseekers Regime and Flexible New Deal (gradual implementation started from April 2009).
4. The latest data on Jobs are to November 2009.
5. The New Deal for Young People pilots began in January 1998 and full national roll-out occurred in April 1998.
6. The New Deal for 25 plus programme was introduced in July 1998.
7. The New Deal for Lone Parents was introduced in October 1998.
8. Data on New Deal for Disabled People are available from July 2001 (programme was introduced in 1999).
9. Data on New Deal 50 plus Jobs are available from April 2003 (programme was introduced in April 2000).
10. Data for New Deal for Partners are available from April 2004 (programme started in May 1999).

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

### Unemployment Benefits: Bexley

**Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in the London Borough of Bexley in receipt of out-of-work benefits as a result of *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug dependency. [3310]

**Chris Grayling:** Information about the number of people who are receiving Employment and Support Allowance or Jobseeker's Allowance as a result of drug or alcohol dependency is not available.

The available information is in the following table.

*Working age incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants in Bexley local authority with a diagnosis of alcoholism or drug abuse, at November 2009*

| | November 2009 |
|---|---|
| Alcoholism | 80 |
| Drug abuse | 60 |

*Notes:*

1. Employment and Support Allowance replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
2. The primary diagnosis of incapacity on a claimant's medical certificate is recorded.
3. Employment and Support Allowance figures are not currently available by diagnosis.
4. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. Figures shown are for working age claimants only (females aged 16 to 59 and males aged 16 to 64).

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Survey.

### Work Capability Assessment

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any changes to the work capability assessment system are planned following the Department-led review of that system published on 29 March 2010; and if he will make a statement. [5252]

**Chris Grayling:** The Department undertook an internal review of the work capability assessment which was published on 29 March 2010. The review found that generally the assessment accurately identifies individuals for benefit. The review made a number of recommendations for improving the work capability assessment. We announced on 29 June that we will be implementing those recommendations.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Nuclear Power

18. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the proportion of electricity to be generated from nuclear sources. [4953]

**Chris Huhne:** It is for energy companies to bring forward proposals for nuclear new build without public subsidy. The Office for Nuclear Development (OND) will act to enable investment in the UK from the earliest possible date and is focused on removing potential barriers to investment. To date, energy companies have announced plans to build up to 16 gigawatts (GW) of new nuclear in the UK.

### Green Deal

20. **Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to introduce the proposed green deal on domestic energy efficiency; and if he will make a statement. [4955]

21. **Alec Shelbrooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to introduce the proposed green deal on domestic energy efficiency; and if he will make a statement. [4956]

**Gregory Barker:** I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Andrew Stephenson) earlier today.

### Carbon Emissions

**Liz Kendall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of a EU-wide carbon floor price on the volume of carbon dioxide emissions. [4544]

**Gregory Barker:** DECC has not commissioned or undertaken any analysis on the effects of a EU-wide carbon floor price on the volume of carbon dioxide emissions.

### Carbon Sequestration: Gas Fired Power Stations

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on public expenditure on the development of carbon capture and storage technology for gas-fired power stations. [4915]

**Charles Hendry:** We have stated that the Government will continue public sector investment in carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology for four coal-fired power stations. The Committee on Climate Change has recommended that we give serious consideration to funding at least one gas CCS project as part of the programme of four projects. We are carefully evaluating whether a demonstration project on gas would prove beneficial and add value to the programme.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Emily Thornberry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by how much the budget of each of his Department's work programmes will be reduced to make savings. [4267]

**Gregory Barker:** It was announced on 24 May that the Department of Energy and Climate Change will contribute £85 million savings to the Government's overall savings of £6.2 billion in 2010-11. The spending plans of the Department for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15 are being considered as part of the Government's Spending Review and no decisions have been reached yet.

**Mr Bain:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to review his Department's capital funding programmes in advance of the next Comprehensive Spending Review. [5068]

**Gregory Barker:** The Department for Energy and Climate Change is reviewing all capital funding programmes as part of the next Spending Review, in line with the approach set out in the Spending Review Framework presented to Parliament on 8 June. This involves undertaking a fundamental review of capital spending plans, to identify those areas of spending that will achieve the greatest economic returns.

### Energy: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support his Department is giving to the development of low-carbon energy projects in Yorkshire and the Humber. [4936]

**Charles Hendry:** Government have provided support for a range of low carbon energy projects in the Yorkshire and Humber region as part of our wider support for low carbon technology development and deployment.

Support ranges from direct investment—for example in the Government's provision of around £22 million to establish the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre in Sheffield—to support from the Carbon Trust which has worked with customers in the region to help reduce their emissions and energy bills.

### Environmental Transformation Fund

**Emily Thornberry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by how much the budget of the Environmental Transformation Fund will be reduced; and which projects and programmes will be affected by those reductions. [4296]

**Gregory Barker:** The 2010-11 budget for the national Environmental Transformation Fund and DECC's Low Carbon Investment Funding will be cut by £34 million as part of the response to the record deficit inherited by the new Government.

DECC is reviewing all activities funded from these budgets before finalising which activities will be cut, or scaled back.

### Green Investment Bank

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's definition is of green as applied to the Green Investment Bank. [4747]

**Gregory Barker:** The Government are considering a wide range of options for the scope and structure of the Green Investment Bank and will put forward detailed proposals following the Spending Review.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Public Expenditure

**Ian Swales:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of subsidies to the nuclear industry in each year since 1997. [4671]

**Charles Hendry** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* With the exception of British Energy, there have been no public subsidies to the nuclear generating sector since the privatisation of parts of the industry.

The Government are underwriting the Nuclear Liabilities Fund, the segregated fund which meets the cost of British Energy's decommissioning and certain uncontracted liabilities to the extent that its liabilities outweigh its assets. In return, the fund received the proceeds of the sale to EdF in January 2009 of the Government's interest in British Energy, this amounted to a contribution of £4.42 billion to the fund. On current valuations, the assets of the fund exceed the liabilities.

In terms of British Energy (privatised in July 1996), a loan facility was provided to the company in 2002 to support it through its restructuring. This loan was repaid in full with interest in December 2003 and no further drawings can be made. As a result of the restructuring which completed in January 2005, the Government have taken direct financial responsibility for BE's historic spent fuel liabilities. The following payments have been made, from Government, since restructuring to meet those historic spent fuel liabilities:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 185 |
| 2005-06 | 189 |
| 2006-07 | 196 |
| 2007-08 | 205 |
| 2008-09 | 211 |
| 2009-10 | 212 |

The public sector nuclear sites, including the first generation of nuclear reactors have largely ceased normal operation and entered decommissioning. In April 2005 responsibility for cleaning up the legacy sites was passed to the newly created Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). These were previously owned variously by the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) and British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL). These sites have always been in the public sector and the clean-up costs are recognised as public sector liabilities. BNFL's operational facilities, including the Magnox power stations, were run on a commercial basis under contracts negotiated with their customers.

The NDA mission is fully funded by the public sector, through a mixture of direct grant and commercial income. The latter will decline over time as the remaining operational nuclear plants close and enter decommissioning. The European Commission approved the funding of NDA under the state aid rules and in the same Decision, concluded that there was no aid or subsidy to either BNFL or UKAEA.

### Wind Power: Manufacturing Industries

**Ms Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he is reviewing the decision to allocate £60 million to fund port infrastructure for off-shore wind turbine manufacturing. [5152]

**Charles Hendry:** The Government are committed to the development of UK manufacturing to support the growing offshore wind sector. Funding for offshore wind ports infrastructure has not been selected for suspension or cancellation as part of the recent cost cutting exercise, but as with all public spending it is being reviewed in the context of the Spending Review.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Police

**Alan Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Association of Chief Police Officers and *(b)* the Association of Police Authorities on the Government's proposals to introduce a directly-elected individual to oversee the work of each police force. [4137]

**Mrs May** *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* Ministers have had a number of discussions with both the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities about our proposals, and we will continue to do so.

### Sexualisation of Young People Review

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to implement the recommendations of her Department's review of the sexualisation of young people. [5159]

**James Brokenshire:** In our Coalition programme for Government, we stated that we will crack down on irresponsible advertising and marketing, especially to children, and take steps to tackle the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood. The Government are currently looking at options for responding to the independent reviews that were commissioned last year as part of the previous administration's consultation on violence against women. This includes the Sexualisation of Young People Review conducted by Dr Linda Papadopoulos.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Andy Coulson

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Prime Minister whether his Director of Communications is entitled to use a car from the Government car pool. [2652]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 30 June 2010, *Official Report*, column, 563W.

### BP: Pensions

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the President of the United States, *(b)* the Chairman of BP and *(c)* others on the effect on pension funds in the UK of trends in the BP share price; what assessment he has made of the effect on such funds of those trends; and what his policy is on protecting pension funds invested in that company. [4702]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the comments made by a Downing Street spokesman following my meeting with President Obama on 27 June 2010, a copy of which is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/06/pm-holds-talks-with-president-obama-52499

I also refer the hon. Member to my answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 141W and to my answer at Prime Minister's Questions on 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 289.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Gambling

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 490W, on gambling, what records his private office keeps of his engagements with outside interest groups. [4805]

**John Penrose:** The Ministerial Code published by the Prime Minister on 21 May sets out the standards of conduct expected of Ministers. In particular, it requires the regular publication by Government Departments of ministerial meetings, hospitality, gifts and travel on a quarterly basis.

I can however confirm that since 17 May, I have met with Baroness Julia Neuberger, Chair of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) on 3 June, Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs (QAAD) representing the views of faith and community groups on 17 June, and representatives of the Association of British Bookmakers on 22 June and British Amusement Catering Trades Association on 23 June.

## Horserace Totalisator Board

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the ownership structure is of the Tote; what his timetable is for deciding on the future arrangements for the Tote; what his most recent estimate is of the value of the Tote; and if he will make a statement. [5087]

**John Penrose:** The Tote is a statutory corporation and the Government appoint the chairman and non-executive members of the board. The Government have the power to dispose of the Tote under powers contained in the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004, and my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, confirmed in the Budget on 22 June that the Government will, over the next 12 months, resolve the future of the Tote in a way that secures value for the taxpayer while recognising the support the Tote currently provides the racing industry.

The Government will continue to talk to all parties with an interest in the Tote and to those with an interest in acquiring the Tote during that process. For reasons of commercial confidentiality I cannot disclose the value placed upon the Tote as to do so would harm both the Tote's business and the Government's financial interest in its disposal.

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much the Tote contributed to horse-racing *(a)* including and *(b)* in addition to Levy payments in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [5088]

**John Penrose:** The information requested for 2007-09, is available on the Tote corporate website under financial results at the following link:

http://corporate.totesport.com/financial/results/

The results for 2005-06 can be found at:

http://corporate.totesport.com/financial/agm/documents/2006.pdf

## Official Hospitality: Expenditure

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on catering in each year from 1997 to 2009. [4851]

**John Penrose:** The amount spent with the Department's catering contractor in each year was as follows:

| *Financial year* | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05[1] | 113,417 |
| 2005-06 | 202,844 |
| 2006-07 | 176,944 |
| 2007-08 | 198,546 |
| 2008-09 | 223,069 |
| 2009-10 | 180,285 |

[1] Six months only.

These costs include the net cost of the staff restaurant and the cost of providing hospitality to meetings.

Prior to 2001, the Department did not have in-house catering facilities, and catering costs were not discretely recorded. Between 2001 and 2004, in-house catering was provided by the facilities management contractor, and costs cannot now be accurately disaggregated without incurring disproportionate cost. In December 2009, the staff restaurant facility on site closed.

## Olympic Games 2012: Employment

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many residents of *(a)* Tower Hamlets, *(b)* Hackney, *(c)* Waltham Forest, *(d)* Newham and *(e)* Greenwich are employed at the London 2012 Olympics site; what steps his Department is taking to increase local employment opportunities; and how many jobs in the host boroughs he expects to be created by the London 2012 Olympics. [4880]

**Hugh Robertson:** At the end of March, the date for which the most recent figures are available, 20% of the park work force were resident in the Olympic host boroughs, with the figure for each borough as follows:

*(a)* Tower Hamlets: 201 workers

*(b)* Hackney: 133 workers

*(c)* Waltham Forest: 280 workers

*(d)* Newham: 436 workers

*(e)* Greenwich: 222 workers.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and its partners have put a range of measures in place to help local people in particular access training and employment opportunities on the site. These include investing in training and apprenticeship opportunities with over 2,800 people benefiting from training, including 199 apprentices since the project began. Vacancies are offered exclusively to the host borough employment brokerages and Jobcentre Plus offices in the area for a period of 48 hours. Vacancies unfilled after this time are advertised across London for a further 24 hours and after this are made available across the UK through the national Jobcentre Plus network.

The ODA forecasts that 30,000 people will work on the Olympic Park and Village over the lifetime of the construction programme. During games-time, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games estimates that it will require approximately 6,000 paid staff, up to 70,000 volunteers and 100,000 contracted staff.

### Shops

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the likely effects on the number of jobs in corner shops and small convenience stores which do not have a national lottery terminal of the granting to Camelot of permission to enter the bill payment and mobile telephone top-up market. [5298]

**John Penrose:** The Department has made no such assessment. The decision on whether to allow Camelot, the national lottery operator to undertake any ancillary activity, including offering bill payment and mobile telephone top-up facilities through national lottery terminals, is one for the National Lottery Commission (NLC).

The NLC is currently considering responses to its public consultation on a proposal from Camelot to offer commercial services. That consultation specifically sought views on the EU/competition law considerations which may arise from the proposal.

## TRANSPORT

### Driving: Licensing

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency takes to ensure the accuracy of addresses on its driving licence database. [4922]

**Mike Penning:** To encourage compliance the change of address transaction is free of charge.

To make it easy for customers to keep their address up to date, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency accepts notifications made online, by telephone, at the Post Office™ as part of the driving licence photo renewal, as well as by post. Telephone callers making general inquiries about their driver record have their address checked as a matter of course.

The Agency also conducts an address matching comparison against a third party database before issuing driving licence photo renewal reminders.

### Highways Agency

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he next expects to meet the chief executive of the Highways Agency to discuss the work of the agency. [5751]

**Mike Penning:** Ministers meet regularly with the chief executive of the Highways Agency and the Secretary of State is meeting the chief executive today, Thursday 1 July.

### M60

**Barbara Keeley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on continuation of the Lane Gain project for junctions 12 to 15 on the M60. [4152]

**Mike Penning:** The Government are currently undertaking a Spending Review, the outcome of which will determine the Department for Transport's budget for the period 2011-15. Once the spending review is completed, we will review all planned highways scheme and we expect to report the results of the review in the autumn.

### Network Rail: Pay

**Mr Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to seek a review of senior management pay at Network Rail. [4921]

**Mrs Villiers:** Network Rail is required under a condition of its network licence to maintain a Management Incentive Plan, which is used to determine the remuneration of its senior executives. The Plan is drawn up by the company's Remuneration Committee and must be submitted to the independent Office of Rail Regulation for approval.

Network Rail announced on 24 June a review alongside the Office of Rail Regulation of the future suitability of its Management Incentive Plan for 2010-11. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and the Office of Rail Regulation have made clear that this review must be fundamental and far-reaching; and result in a framework that focuses on rewarding exceptional long-term performance.

### Ports: Energy

**Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on enabling ports to meet the requirements of green energy production. [5111]

**Mike Penning:** Within the context of free market operation, and the requirement for sustainable development, the Government encourage ports to consider all the opportunities for supporting renewable energy production.

### Road Signs and Markings

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to bring forward proposals to delegate the powers to control the placing of stop signs in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 to *(a)* local highway authorities and *(b)* parish councils; and if he will make a statement. [5155]

**Norman Baker:** Although the Department for Transport has no specific plans to delegate responsibility for placing traffic signs to parish councils, the Department is reviewing traffic signs policy to see where greater flexibility can be given to local traffic authorities to remove unnecessary regulatory and administrative burdens. I will make sure the placing of stop signs is considered as part of the wider review.

### Road Traffic: North West

**Mr Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate was made of the cost to the economy of road congestion in the North West in the latest year for which figures are available. [4429]

**Norman Baker:** The 2006 Eddington Study estimated that, using the Department for Transport's National Transport Model, the direct costs of congestion to business could rise by £10-12 billion from 2003 to 2025 (in 2002 prices). Adding in the value of the lost time experienced by other travellers raises this figure to £23-24 billion per annum. This report is available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/transportstrategy/eddingtonstudy/researchannexes/

Congestion in the north-west in 2003 was estimated to cost business and other travellers £1.9 billion in lost time (in 2002 prices).

These figures are based on the difference between the actual time taken to make a journey and the time that would be taken under theoretical "free-flow" conditions. They do not necessarily represent the net benefit that would result from removing congestion.

## TREASURY

### Child Benefit: Bishop Auckland

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mothers receive child benefit in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency; and how many children trigger qualification for payments in each of those constituencies. [5093]

**Mr Gauke:** The latest information on the number of families receiving child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis. August 2009". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf

The constituency referred to in the question—Blackpool North and Cleveleys—was formed after August 2009 so the previous boundary of Blackpool North and Fleetwood has been used instead. The information for the new constituency would be available only at disproportionate cost.

### Child Benefit: Dunfermline

**Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Dunfermline and West Fife constituency and *(b)* Fife local authority were claiming child benefit on the latest date for which figures are available. [5773]

**Mr Gauke:** The latest information on the number of families receiving child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis. August 2009", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf

### Child Benefit: Lancashire

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mothers receive child benefit in West Lancashire constituency; and how many children trigger child benefit payments in that constituency. [5624]

**Mr Gauke:** The latest information on the number of families receiving child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis. August 2009", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf

### Child Tax Credit

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many individuals to whom the child tax credit is paid in families with two earners have annual incomes of *(a)* between 0 and £5,000, *(b)* between £5,001 and £10,000, *(c)* between £10,001 and £15,000, *(d)* between £15,001 and £20,000, *(e)* between £20,001 and £25,000, *(f)* between £25,001 and £30,000 *(g)* between £30,001 and £35,000, *(h)* between £35,001 and £40,000 and *(i)* over £40,001; [4665]

(2) what methodology he uses to estimate the average income of the individual to whom child tax credits are paid in households in receipt of child tax credit with two earners. [4666]

**Justine Greening** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* Child tax credit is awarded on the basis of overall household income and in the case of a couple is paid to the person who has the main responsibility for the child.

The following table shows, as at April 2010, the number of individuals to whom child tax credits are paid, who are in two-earner households, by their 2008-09 finalised income. Incomes for 2009-10 have yet to be finalised.

| *Individual income of the person in the couple who is getting paid CTC, 2008-09* | *Number of individuals to whom CTC is paid (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| £0 to £5,000 | 370 |
| £5,001 to £10,000 | 535 |
| £10,001 to £15,000 | 370 |
| £15,001 to £20,000 | 250 |
| £20,001 to £25,000 | 145 |
| £25,001 to £30,000 | 85 |
| £30,001 to £35,000 | 40 |
| £35,001 to £40,000 | 15 |
| Over £40,000 | 10 |
| Total | 1,825 |

Based on the same information, the average income in 2008-09 for such individuals was £11,970. The total income of these families was on average £33,290.

At Budget the Government announced that the child element of the child tax credit will be increased by £150 above indexation in 2011-12 and £60 above indexation in 2012-13.

### Departmental Manpower

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employees there were in his Department's Euro Preparations Unit; what the annual budget of the unit was; and to which central Government departments such employees will be redeployed. [4831]

**Justine Greening:** The number of staff employed within the Euro Preparations Unit (EPU) from its inception until 2006 was as follows:

| Date | Number of staff<br>Full time | Part time |
|---|---|---|
| March 1998 | 4 | 0 |
| March 1999 | 15 | 0 |
| March 2000 | 13 | 0 |
| March 2001 | 12 | 1 |
| March 2002 | 12 | 3 |
| March 2003 | 14 | 3 |
| March 2004 | 13 | 2 |
| March 2005 | 8 | 1 |
| March 2006 | 4 | 0 |

Since 2006 the Euro Preparation Unit's work has been undertaken by a wider Treasury team. Costs of staffing and expenditure on euro preparations have therefore been grouped within that team's overall costs and cannot be separately identified.

The Chancellor announced at the recent emergency Budget that all work on euro preparations within Government will cease with immediate effect. The Treasury staff member working on euro preparations has been redeployed to other Treasury policy areas.

### Employment: Older People

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of those aged over 65 years are in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employment. [4838]

**Mr Hurd:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many of those aged over 65 years are in (a) full-time and (b) part-time employment. (4838)

For the three-month period January-March 2010 it is estimated that of those aged over 65 years, 185,000 were in full-time employment and 419,000 were in part-time employment.

These estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are not seasonally adjusted. The LFS is a survey of residents in private households and therefore excludes people living in communal establishments such as hostels and residential homes.

As with any sample survey, the estimates provided are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

**Caroline Flint:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the median annual income for those aged over 65 years who are in employment. [4839]

**Mr Gauke:** Information on incomes and tax from pensioner taxpayers can be found in table 3.12 "Income and tax for individuals of pension age, by gender and country" at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#314

Estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2007-08 is currently the latest available.

### Personal Income

**Yvette Cooper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to chart A2 of Budget 2010, HC6, if he will publish charts showing the effect of increases announced in the June 2010 Budget and excluding the effect of measures announced in the March 2010 Budget as a percentage of net income by income distribution for each year to 2015-16. [4646]

**Mr Gauke** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* The analysis published in the Red Book showed the impact of measures to be in place in 2012-13 compared with those in place today. The Government believe that as they have chosen to retain some of the policies they have inherited while reversing other decisions that this is the most appropriate way to present the impact of June 2010 Budget decisions.

Analysis for years beyond 2012-13 will be more uncertain due to greater uncertainty surrounding longer term economic forecasts underpinning the model.

### Pregnant Women: Grants

**Rushanara Ali:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mothers resident in Bethnal Green and Bow constituency received the Health in Pregnancy grant in each year since its introduction. [4879]

**Justine Greening:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Rutherglen and Hamilton West (Tom Greatrex) on 29 June, *Official Report*, column 502W.

### Private Sector: Job Creation

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Financial Statement of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 166-80, what the source was for the statistics on regional private sector jobs generation cited at column 176. [4860]

**Danny Alexander:** The source is the Centre for Cities' June 2010 report "Private sector cities: A new geography of opportunity" (p.6). The figures are based on NOMIS 2010, Annual Business Inquiry data.

The report can be found online at:

http://www.centreforcities.org/index.php?id=1166

### Taxation: Financial Services

**Frank Dobson:** To ask Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue from the financial services sector to be foregone by the Exchequer as a result of the proposed reduction in corporation tax in each financial year to 2015-16. [5170]

**Mr Gauke:** The cost to the Exchequer of the reduction in the main rate of corporation tax are given to 2014-15 in table 2.1 of Budget 2010. The cost from financial sector companies in these years is £0.1 billion in 2011-12, £0.2 billion in 2012-13, £0.3 billion in 2013-14 and £0.4 billion in 2014-15. There is a negligible impact in 2010-11.

The financial sector covers companies classified as 'Banking and Finance', 'Insurance and Pension' funds and 'Auxiliary Financial Services'.

Banks will also be affected by the bank levy announced in the Budget 2010. The yield from the bank levy is estimated to be £1.15 billion in 2011-12, £2.32 billion in 2012-13, £2.5 billion in 2013-14 and £2.4 billion in 2014-15.

### VAT: Newcastle upon Tyne

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the increase in expenditure of an average earning household in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Newcastle Central constituency as a result of the increase in the rate of value added tax in the 12 months from January 2011 compared with the previous 12 months. [4821]

**Mr Gauke:** Households with similar levels of earnings can show considerable variation in the degree to which they are affected by an increase in the rate of value added tax, due to differences in composition, eligibility for benefits, or preferences for goods subject to, or not subject to, value added tax. These differences mean that it is not possible to provide a robust estimate of the average increase in expenditure for a typical household on average earnings at the UK or sub-UK level.

However, through using survey data and aggregating this over ranges of income, it is possible to provide an estimate of the average increase in expenditure for households in specific income bands. Charts A1 and A2 in Annex A of the Budget present an estimate of the increase in expenditure by income decile, both in absolute terms (£ per annum) and as a proportion of net income, available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the tax credit *(a)* over payments and *(b)* under payments arising from the Government's proposals to (i) reduce the income disregard from £25,000 to £10,000 for two years in 2011-12 and to £5,000 from 2013-14, (ii) introduce an income disregard of £2,500 for falls in income from 2012-13 and (iii) reduce backdating of new claims and changes of circumstances to one month in 2012-13. [4651]

**Justine Greening** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* The following tables show these estimates after taking account of other changes to the Tax Credit system.

*Table 1: Change in amount of overpaid tax credits due to Budget announcements*

*£ million*

| | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Reduce the income disregard from £25,000 to £10,000 for two years in 2011-12 and to £5,000 from 2013-14. | +145 | +155 | +430 |
| Introduce an income disregard of £2,500 for falls in income from 2012-13. | 0 | -20 | -20 |
| Reduce backdating of new claims and changes of circumstances to one month in 2012-13. | 0 | -15 | -20 |
| Total | +145 | +120 | +390 |

*Table 2: Change in amount of underpaid tax credits due to Budget announcements*

*£ million*

| | *2011-12* | *2012-13* | *2013-14* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Reduce the income disregard from £25,000 to £10,000 for two years in 2011-12 and to £5,000 from 2013-14. | +5 | +5 | +5 |
| Introduce an income disregard of £2,500 for falls in income from 2012-13. | 0 | -305 | -310 |
| Reduce backdating of new claims and changes of circumstances to one month in 2012-13. | 0 | -60 | -60 |
| Total | +5 | -360 | -365 |

### Welfare Tax Credits: Bishop Auckland

**Helen Goodman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency receive tax credits. [5095]

**Mr Gauke:** The latest information on the number of families with children benefiting from Child and Working Tax Credits, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2010", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr2010.pdf

### Welfare Tax Credits: Lancashire

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households receive tax credits in West Lancashire constituency. [5646]

**Mr Gauke:** The latest information on the number of families with children benefiting from child and working tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2010", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr2010.pdf

## JUSTICE

### Courts: Closures

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* magistrates' courts and *(b)* county courts are under consultation for closure in (i) rural 50 and (ii) rural 75 constituencies. [4874]

**Mr Djanogly:** The consultation includes nine magistrates courts and five county courts in rural 50 and 38 magistrates courts and 13 county courts in rural 75 constituencies across England and Wales. The following, lists the courts concerned:

*Magistrates courts*

*Rural 50*

Worksop
Retford
Brigwater
Alton
Guisborough
Newark
Coalville
Flint
Abergavenny

*Rural 75*

Alnwick
Bishop Auckland
Goole
Whitehaven
Daventry
Coleford
Tynedale
Lewes
Ludlow
Mid Sussex
Blandford Forum
Wisbech
Cromer
Market Drayton
Oswestry
Penrith
Melton Mowbray
Rutland
Penzance
Selby
Skipton
Frome
Ely
Liskeard
Spalding
Sudbury
Thetford
Swaffham
Honiton
Totnes
Didcot
Wantage
Witney
Ammanford
Llandovery
Cardigan
Pwllheli
Llangefni

*County courts*

*Rural 50*

Worksop
Skegness
Grantham
Hitchin
Newark

*Rural 75*

Bishop Auckland
Goole
Whitehaven
Ludlow
Haywards Heath
Evesham
Oswestry
Consett
Penrith
Melton Mowbray
Penzance
Skipton
Llangefni

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which members of the judiciary were consulted on the decision to publish a list of courts where consultation is to take place over their closure. [5016]

**Mr Djanogly:** We are currently consulting on the closure of 103 magistrates courts and 54 county courts. We welcome responses from all interested parties including the judiciary.

Prior to the launch of the consultation a small number of senior judges were given an indication of those courts likely to appear on the list on which the Lord Chancellor has consulted. In addition, the judicial members of the HMCS Board were involved in the Board's decision to agree to the list of courts which were place before the Lord Chancellor.

Court closures are a matter reserved for the Lord Chancellor and he will decide whether and which courts to close following the consultation.

## Gary Critchley

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the *(a)* length of time spent in prison by Gary Critchley relative to his sentence and *(b)* safety of Gary Critchley's conviction; and if he will review the case of Gary Critchley. [4901]

**Mr Blunt:** Several representations have been received in recent months from MPs, members of the public and from Mr Critchley himself.

Mr Critchley is serving a life sentence for murder. He is currently detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983. His release is a matter for the Parole Board but the board will not consider his case as long as he remains lawfully detained in hospital.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) is the independent non-departmental public body responsible for reviewing alleged miscarriages of justice. It is open to Mr Critchley to make an application to the CCRC. If the CCRC were to consider that there was a real possibility that his conviction would not be upheld they could refer his case to the Court of Appeal. Only the Court of Appeal can quash his conviction.

### Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

**Justin Tomlinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people charged with human trafficking offences were subsequently prosecuted in the last 12 months. [4764]

**Mr Blunt:** During 2008, latest currently available, a total of 61 persons were proceeded against at magistrates courts in England and Wales for human trafficking offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum & Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in October 2010.

### Magistrates Courts: Ammanford

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on the recent refurbishments of Ammanford Magistrates' Court. [4713]

**Mr Djanogly:** £59,000 was spent on refurbishments and maintenance work at Ammanford magistrates court in the 2009-10 financial year. With the exception of £5,000 spent on re-lamping works, the expenditure was necessary in order to secure a water-tight and structurally sound building.

### Magistrates' Courts: Closures

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date the list of magistrates' courts proposed for closure was presented to the Board of HM Courts Service. [5015]

**Mr Djanogly:** On several occasions the Board of HM Courts Service has discussed the court estate, based on principles agreed in 2007.

On 16 June 2010 the HMCS Board agreed that the Lord Chancellor should be invited to consult on the possible closure of 103 magistrates courts and 54 county courts.

Court closures are a matter reserved for the Lord Chancellor and he will make a decision on whether and which courts will close following the consultation.

### Rape: Greater London

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for rape there were in (i) Haringey and (ii) London in each year since 2005. [4893]

**Mr Blunt:** Information on the number of number of prosecutions and convictions for rape in London, 2005 to 2008 (latest currently available) are given in the following table.

Court proceedings data collected centrally only provides detail on the court and police force area in which the proceedings took place, they do not identify the specific location in which an offence took place. Although proceedings in criminal cases begin in magistrates' courts, the majority of cases involving rape will progress on to the Crown Court. This may be in a different location to both where the offence was committed and where proceedings were instituted. It is therefore not possible to provide the specific information requested for Haringey.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication in October 2010.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for rape[1] [2], Greater London police force area 2005-08[3] [4]*

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Proceeded against | 640 | 589 | 557 | 567 |
| Found guilty | 118 | 151 | 156 | 173 |

[1] Includes: Rape and attempted rape of a female or male.

[2] Includes: Conspiracies, charges of participation in offences as accessories after the fact and charges of participation in offences by impeding the apprehension or prosecution of the offender.

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice.

## EDUCATION

### Departmental Official Cars

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* make, *(b)* model and *(c)* place of manufacture is of the car allocated for the use of each Minister in his Department. [1478]

**Michael Gove:** Ministers at the Department for Education inherited five allocated cars from Ministers in the previous Government. The full details of *(a)* make, *(b)* model and *(c)* place of manufacture are as follows:

| *Number* | *Vehicle make/model* | *Place of manufacture* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Jaguar XJ TDVi Sovereign | UK |
| 3 | Toyota Prius T3 | Japan |
| 1 | Honda Civic ES Hybrid | Japan |

These arrangements are changing following the publication of the new Ministerial Code which contains changes that affect ministerial entitlement to travel by Government car.

The expectation is that Ministers not in the Cabinet will use the pool service and that Cabinet Ministers who have an allocated car will wish to consider how that car might be utilised by other Ministers within the Department before calls are made on the Government Car Service Pool.

However, the Ministerial Code states that "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed".

The Department for Education is working with the Department for Transport and its Government Car and Despatch Agency to effect the transition to the new arrangements.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### National Security Strategy

**Mr Arbuthnot:** To ask the Leader of the House with reference to Standing Order No. 152I, what discussions he has had on the establishment of a Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [5286]

**Sir George Young:** Discussions about the Committee will be taken forward in the usual way.

### Members: Oaths and Affirmations

**Ian Paisley:** To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Antrim of 23 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 291, what the scope is of the Prime Minister's re-examination of the arrangements for those who have been elected to the House to attend the House without having taken the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance; whether he plans to examine possible revisions to the Oath and Affirmation; and if he will make a statement. [4521]

**Mr Heath:** Members are required by law to take the Oath or make the Affirmation before taking part in any proceedings of the House. The Government have no plans to change these requirements.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of how the current unrest in the Kyrgyz Republic will affect operations in Afghanistan. [5197]

**Alistair Burt:** The International Security Assistance Force uses Manas Transit Centre to supply the mission in Afghanistan. Operations at the Transit Centre are currently unaffected by the unrest in Krygyzstan. The Provisional Government of Krygyzstan has agreed to honour all commitments, including on the Manas Transit Centre, at least until the end of the current agreement, by which point a new Parliament should be in place with which to discuss further arrangements.

### Burma: Elections

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Burma on the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the forthcoming elections in that country. [5141]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** I raised Burma with ASEAN Ministers at the EU-ASEAN Ministerial on 26 May at which the Burmese Foreign Minister was present. I made clear that without the release and participation of all political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's elections will not be free and fair. Our ambassador in Rangoon also raises issues of concern directly with the Burmese regime including calls for the release of all political prisoners.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and other members of the G8 discussed Burma at the summit in Canada and issued a statement urging the Burmese regime to allow for free and fair elections, to release without delay all political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, and to engage the democratic opposition and representatives of ethnic groups in a substantive dialogue on the way forward to national reconciliation.

We will continue to raise our concern at the highest possible level with Burma's neighbours, in the EU, the UN and directly with the regime.

### Burma: Export Controls

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the purchase by the Burmese government of dual use goods which could be used in the development of nuclear weapons; and whether he has taken steps to ensure that no such dual use goods can be exported to Burma from the *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU. [5158]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We are concerned by reports suggesting that Burma may be developing a covert nuclear programme in collaboration with North Korea.

We continue to urge Burma to act strictly in accordance with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to abide by the terms and conditions of its International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards Agreement, and declare all nuclear material in its possession. Should there be authoritative evidence that Burma is in breach of its international obligations, the UK would raise the matter with other EU member states.

Our ambassador to Rangoon has recently lobbied the Burmese regime on their obligations under UN sanctions and raised proliferation issues with senior members of the military. We will continue to raise our concerns at the highest possible level.

Bilaterally the UK actively discourages trade and investment with Burma which could benefit members of, or those persons associated with, the Burmese military regime. The EU has had restrictive measures in place against Burma since 1996. The EU Council Decision (formerly an EU Common Position) was renewed for a further year in April. EU sanctions against Burma are calibrated to address the deteriorating political situation and abuses of civil and human rights by the military regime. There are at the present time no specific EU measures in place which restrict the export of machinery to Burma with a potential dual use of this nature.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his German counterpart on the alleged breach by Germany of the EU Common Position on Burma through the export to that country of industrial equipment with a potential dual use in a nuclear weapons programme. [5160]

**Mr Bellingham:** The EU has had restrictive measures in place against Burma since 1996. EU restrictive measures against Burma are calibrated to address the deteriorating political situation and abuses of civil and human rights by the military regime. The EU Council Decision (formerly an EU Common Position) was renewed for a further year in April. There are no specific EU measures in place which restrict the export of machinery to Burma, with a potential dual use of this nature. Bilaterally the UK actively discourages trade and investment with Burma, which could benefit members of, or those persons associated with, the Burmese military regime.

We continue to urge Burma to act strictly in accordance with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to abide by the terms and conditions of its International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards Agreement, and declare all nuclear material in its possession. In light of the activities suggesting Burma is acting in contravention of its international obligations, the UK is seeking to raise the matter with other EU member states.

Our ambassador to Rangoon has recently lobbied the Burmese regime on their obligations under UN sanctions and raised proliferation concerns with senior members of the military regime and we will continue to raise our concerns at the highest possible level.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of assistance given by North Korea to Burma in the acquisition of nuclear weapons technology. [5161]

**Mr Jeremy Browne:** We are concerned by the allegations that Burma may be developing a covert nuclear programme in collaboration with North Korea. We take such issues very seriously. We continue to urge Burma to act strictly in accordance with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to abide by the terms and conditions of its International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards Agreement and declare all nuclear material in its possession.

We continue to urge all countries, including Burma, to respect their obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874 which clearly prohibit the export from North Korea of all items, materials, equipment, goods and technology which could contribute to North Korea's nuclear weapons programme.

Our ambassador to Rangoon has recently lobbied the Burmese regime on their obligations under UN sanctions and raised proliferation concerns with senior members of the military regime. Burma cannot afford to risk the grave consequences of breaching the measures that have been adopted to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Mr Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on allegations of the proposed expulsion by the government of Israel of Palestinian Members of Parliament, Mohammed Abu Tir, Ahmed Othwan, Mohammed Tutah and Khalid Abu Arafa from their homes in Jerusalem. [4337]

**Alistair Burt:** The UK is extremely concerned by recent reports of Palestinians' residency permits being revoked. We can confirm that President Abbas has requested the Israeli Government to rescind their decision.

### Pitcairn Islands: Child Protection

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what child protection measures are in place to protect children on the Pitcairn Islands from convicted sex offenders. [5080]

**Mr Bellingham:** A Child Safety Review, commissioned by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development, was completed by independent experts (including from the Lucy Faithfull Foundation) in June 2009. The Government are working to implement the recommendations made in the report for further strengthening of child safeguarding measures on Pitcairn.

There is a significant community of professionals based full-time on Pitcairn including a community police officer seconded from the New Zealand Police Service, a family and community adviser (who is a New Zealand trained social worker), a teacher and a doctor. There is also an FCO official, stationed full-time on Pitcairn, who is engaged in safeguarding work. All professionals receive child protection training before they go to the island and there are established policies and procedures in place for handling specific child protection concerns. Most members of the island community have also attended human rights training and child protection training.

Convicted offenders who are released on parole are subject to a number of conditions laid down by the Pitcairn Parole Commission, including restrictions on their movements and on whom they may associate with. Offenders are closely monitored by their supervision officer—the community police officer. Offenders are also obliged to participate in an Offender Treatment Programme, which is now almost completed.

A Pitcairn Sexual Offences Ordinance (2010) has recently been introduced. This is modelled on the UK Sexual Offences Act 2003. It provides for a sex offenders register, Sexual Offences Prevention Orders and Risk of Sexual Harm Orders.

A further review of child safety is planned for 2011.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what quantities of military waste materials have been removed from *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since British troops entered each country; what quantities of such waste remain in each country; at what locations such waste has been treated or buried; and what the cost of treatment or burial has been in each case. [3739]

**Peter Luff:** The quantities of military waste material removed, remaining, treated or buried in Afghanistan and Iraq are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, how much of the remainder of £27 million will be spent on *(a)* remote vehicles and *(b)* military working dogs. [4386]

**Peter Luff:** The allocation of an additional £67 million announced by the Prime Minister on 10 June 2010 to support the campaign to counter the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) threat in Afghanistan, includes more than £11 million for remote control vehicles for use by our Counter-IED teams, and approximately £2 million for enhancements to our military working dog capability.

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, how many vehicles of each type will be purchased with the £67 million to support the campaign to counter the improvised explosive device threat in Afghanistan. [4387]

**Peter Luff:** I am withholding this information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces in Afghanistan.

### Armed Forces: Barnsley

**Michael Dugher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people from *(a)* Barnsley East constituency and *(b)* the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley are serving in (i) the Army, (ii) the Royal Navy and (iii) the Royal Air Force. [5147]

**Mr Robathan:** The information requested is not held centrally. I can confirm however that as at April 2010 no service personnel were stationed in Barnsley.

### Armed Forces: Enfield

**Nick de Bois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people resident in *(a)* the London Borough of Enfield and *(b)* Enfield North constituency are currently serving in the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force. [5590]

**Mr Robathan:** The information requested is not held centrally. I can confirm however that as at April 2010 no Service personnel were stationed in Enfield.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the *(a)* Future Family of Light Armoured Vehicles programme, *(b)* Tactical Reconnaissance Armoured Combat Equipment Requirement programme and *(c)* Future Rapid Effect System Utility Vehicles programme on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many vehicles were procured under each programme. [4670]

**Peter Luff:** Cost information on the Future Family of Light Armoured Vehicles (FFLAV) programme, which dates from the early 1990s, is not held in the format requested.

The estimated costs to the public purse of the other two programmes are as follows:

As at September 2002, the cost of the Tactical Reconnaissance Armoured Combat Equipment Requirement (TRACER) Programme was some £131 million.

The cost to date for the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) Utility Vehicle programme is £133 million.

While no vehicles have been procured under either of the above programmes, the money invested has refined the understanding of the requirement, reduced technical risk and increased the skills of both the department and industry with specialist management and integration skills.

### Defence Equipment and Support: Salaries

**Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people are employed by Defence Equipment and Support at Abbey Wood; and what the cost of their salaries was in the latest year for which figures are available. [4351]

**Peter Luff:** On 1 April 2010, there were 21,810 staff within Defence Equipment and Support, of which 7,656 service personnel and civilian staff were employed at MOD Abbey Wood, excluding contractors' employees. The annual staff cost, excluding overtime and allowances, is approximately £330 million.

### Defence: Finance

**Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the funding allocated to doubling the Operational Allowance will come from the *(a)* reserve and *(b)* defence budget. [4264]

**Mr Robathan:** The operational allowance, estimated to be a total of £114 million in 2010-11, is drawn equally from the Government Reserve and the core Defence budget. This reflects the priority that this Government place on both supporting our armed forces on operations and rebuilding the Military Covenant.

### Defence: Procurement

**Mr Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the capacity of small and medium-sized businesses to complete the pre-qualification questionnaire for businesses wishing to tender for defence procurement contracts. [4840]

**Peter Luff:** The Ministry of Defence has been working with the Office of Government Commerce and other Departments to identify and implement ways of improving access to public procurement by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This includes simplification of the pre-qualification process, and the Ministry of Defence is considering adopting a standard pre-qualification questionnaire developed by the OGC for lower-value procurements. This should reduce the administrative burden on SMEs wishing to tender for defence procurement contracts.

### Departmental VAT

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the change in the level of value added tax his Department will be required to pay in financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [4571]

**Peter Luff:** Departmental budgets are set on a tax-inclusive basis. Based on currently planned expenditure, the estimate of the additional expenditure required by the Ministry of Defence based on the increased level of value added tax is approximately £38 million in financial year 2010-11. Budgets for the financial year 2011-12 have not yet been set and it is not possible to estimate the impact of tax changes in that year.

### France

**Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 181W, on France, for what reasons there was no accommodation cost for the Minister; and for what reasons the cost of accommodation for officials was £88. [4326]

**Mr Robathan** *[holding answer 28 June 2010]*: During my visit to France for the 70th anniversary of Dunkirk I was the guest of the Mayor of Dunkirk and did not accrue accommodation costs. Officials stayed at local accommodation at a total cost of £44 per room.

### Future Large Aircraft

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the first Airbus 400M will be delivered to the UK; when it will enter service; and what estimate he has made of the unit cost of each aircraft. [4596]

**Peter Luff:** The A400M military transport aircraft programme will be reviewed as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, but on current plans the first UK delivery is expected in 2014 and it is due to enter service with the Royal Air Force in 2015.

I am withholding the unit cost information for commercial reasons.

### Met Office

**John Thurso:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the future of the Met Office will be considered as part the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [4916]

**Mr Robathan:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Halton (Derek Twigg) on 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W.

### Met Office Review Group

**John Thurso:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next expects the Met Office Review Group to meet; and whether the remit of that Group has changed since his appointment. [4917]

**Mr Robathan:** The Met Office Review Group is not due to meet in the near future; however work continues on the implementation of the review's 2009 recommendations.

The remit of the group has not changed since my appointment.

### Military Aircraft: Procurement

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost of cancelling the *(a)* purchase of the RC-135 Rivet Joint aircraft and *(b)* Future Rapid Effect System Specialist Vehicles contract. [4597]

**Peter Luff:** The overall cost of the RC-135 Rivet Joint Project, through life, is circa £1.2 billion and at this early stage of the project life cycle any cancellation costs would be a small fraction of this. Rivet Joint is being acquired through the US Foreign Military Sales process which allows customers to withdraw at any time on payment of all costs incurred to date, and any unavoidable liabilities held by the US Government and its contractors.

On 1 July 2010, the Ministry of Defence announced that a demonstration phase contract for Specialist Vehicles had been signed. The cost of a subsequent cancellation would be agreed with the contractor with the Department paying fair and reasonable costs and liabilities at the time of the cancellation.

### Nuclear Weapons: Decommissioning

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to dispose of obsolescent and surplus nuclear weapons. [4863]

**Peter Luff:** The UK does not have any obsolescent or surplus nuclear weapons that require disposal.

### Radioactive Materials

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 470W, on radioactive materials, what security and safety standards apply to the storage and transport of each different class of special nuclear materials. [4751]

**Peter Luff:** The security standards that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) applies to the storage and transportation of the various categories of Special Nuclear Material (SNM) are consistent with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) guidelines such as 'The Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and Nuclear Facilities'. These security standards are designed to protect Defence Nuclear Material against unauthorised access and malicious acts. I am withholding specific details as their publication would be likely to prejudice national security.

On the safety standards applied to storage and transportation, the relevant policy is contained within Joint Service Publication (JSP) 518 'Regulation of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme' and JSP 538 'Regulation of the Nuclear Weapon Programme'. For the storage of SNM, the standards applied are the same as those applied to civil nuclear installations under nuclear site licensing. For the transport of SNM, the

JSPs cite the IAEA publication 'Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material', which forms the technical basis of legislation covering the transport of radioactive materials in the UK.

Where exemptions or derogations from the legislation apply, it is MOD policy to introduce standards and management arrangements that are, so far as reasonably practicable, at least as good as those required by the legislation.

## SCOTLAND

### Video games

**Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effects of the taxation regime for the computer games industry on the industry in Scotland. [5339]

**Michael Moore:** I have discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a variety of subjects. The June 2010 Budget announced major reforms to business taxation, designed to make the UK the most competitive corporate tax regime in the G20. The video games industry is well placed to benefit from these changes.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Manpower

**Sir Menzies Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff are employed full-time by his Department in the *(a)* water, sanitation and hygiene, *(b)* health and *(c)* education sectors; and if he will provide a breakdown of staff numbers by country offices. [4683]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has not hitherto held a central record of staff broken down by the categories specified. A significant number of DFID programme staff and professional advisers work across different sectors and multi-disciplinary teams. It is therefore not possible to answer the question as stated without incurring disproportionate costs.

DFID is currently working towards publishing details of staff positions from October 2010 in line with the Prime Minister's recent announcement on transparency across Government.

### Developing Countries: Climate Change

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to assist vulnerable and developing countries to support an ambitious global climate change deal. [4628]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** In "The Coalition; our programme for government", the Government laid out our commitment to "exploring ways of helping the poorest developing countries to take part in the international climate change negotiations". The Department for International Development (DFID) will take this agenda forward and is currently considering ways to put this commitment into action.

I recently affirmed the UK's Fast Start commitment of £1.5 billion for the period 2010-12, which will help developing countries to adapt to climate change, adopt clean technology and reduce emissions from deforestation.

### Developing Countries: Fossil Fuels

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 557W, on developing countries: fossil fuels, if he will take steps to end support for fossil fuel extraction and transport projects by multilateral development banks. [4620]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** I am currently reviewing my Department's position regarding the energy lending of the multilateral development banks in the light of our commitment to poverty reduction and tackling climate change and will set out our position in due course.

### Peru: Forests

**Zac Goldsmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is giving to *(a)* sustainable forestry management projects and *(b)* projects to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation in Peru. [4668]

**Mr Andrew Mitchell:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £3.7 million (2008-12) to Global Witness to increase transparency in the management and governance of forests in four countries, including Peru. With this support representatives of the 1,300 indigenous communities that inhabit over 12 million hectares of forest have participated in the development of a new national forest law to be approved this year. This support is also enabling civil society to monitor forest sector transparency and legally ask the Government of Peru for access to information on industrial forest concession allocation.

DFID has provided funding to the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), which has trained Peruvian loggers to improve their harvesting techniques, and helped the national forestry department develop community forest management.

DFID also finances the World Bank-administered Forest Investment Programme and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. Peru has applied for support from both of these funds.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Deaths: Cervical Cancer

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of deaths from cervical cancer occurred in women *(a)* over the age of 60, *(b)* between 30 and 59 and *(c)* under 30 years in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [4925]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what proportion of deaths from cervical cancer occurred in women (a) over the age of 60, (b) between 30 and 59 and (c) under 30 years in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. (4925)

The table attached provides the number and per cent of deaths where cervical cancer was the underlying cause of death in England and Wales, in women aged (a) 60 years and over, (b) between 30 and 59 years and (c) under 30 years, for the years 2001 to 2009 (the latest year available).

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age and cause are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

*Table 1: The number and percentage of deaths where cervical cancer was the underlying cause, by age, England and Wales, 2001 to 2009*[1, 2, 3, 4]

*Deaths (females)*

| | *Number* | | | | *Percentage*[5] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *0 to 30* | *30 to 59* | *60+* | *All ages* | *0 to 30* | *30 to 59* | *60+* | *All ages* |
| 2001 | 22 | 416 | 608 | 1,046 | 2 | 40 | 58 | 100 |
| 2002 | 14 | 389 | 600 | 1,003 | 1 | 39 | 60 | 100 |
| 2003 | 25 | 351 | 577 | 953 | 3 | 37 | 61 | 100 |
| 2004 | 18 | 370 | 563 | 951 | 2 | 39 | 59 | 100 |
| 2005 | 16 | 360 | 541 | 917 | 2 | 39 | 59 | 100 |
| 2006 | 24 | 332 | 475 | 831 | 3 | 40 | 57 | 100 |
| 2007 | 28 | 341 | 451 | 820 | 3 | 42 | 55 | 100 |
| 2008 | 26 | 330 | 474 | 830 | 3 | 40 | 57 | 100 |
| 2009 | 25 | 311 | 494 | 830 | 3 | 37 | 60 | 100 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C53.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[4] Deaths registered in 2009 are provisional.
[5] Deaths from cervical cancer in each age group as a percentage of all deaths from cervical cancer.

## Job Creation: Leeds

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many new jobs have been created in the private sector in Leeds North West constituency in each of the last five years; [5156]

(2) how many new jobs have been created in the public sector in Leeds North West constituency in each of the last five years. [5157]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many new jobs have been created in the public sector in Leeds North West constituency in each of the last five years; and how many new jobs have been created in the private sector in Leeds North West constituency in each of the last five years. (5157 & 5156)

Statistics regarding the number of new jobs created are not available.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment and unemployment are available from the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

## National Citizen Service

**Mr Timpson:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to introduce a National Citizen Service. [4801]

**Mr Hurd:** Full details of this programme will be announced by the Cabinet Office later this year, with a launch expected in 2011.

## New Businesses: Barnsley

**Michael Dugher:** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses were started in *(a)* Barnsley East constituency and *(b)* the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley during 2009-10. [5146]

**Mr Hurd:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many new businesses were started in (a) Barnsley East constituency and (b) the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley during 2009-10. [5146]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Data are only available for 2008 and are for the ward areas that cover the new constituency of East Barnsley.

*Count of enterprise births for 2008 in Barnsley East parliamentary constituency and Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Barnsley East | 245 |
| Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley | 695 |

# COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Community Infrastructure Levy

**Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of the Community Infrastructure Levy. [5565]

**Greg Clark:** The Government are currently considering the future of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). We will make a public announcement shortly.

### Fire Services: Retirement

**Mr Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on raising the retirement age for firefighters. [5707]

**Robert Neill:** There is no compulsory retirement age for firefighters and age discrimination legislation applies to the fire and rescue service.

### Housing: Construction

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to reward councils for allowing housing developments by changing the distribution of the Revenue Grant; and if he will make a statement. [5221]

**Grant Shapps:** We are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need. The coalition agreement set out our clear intention to provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including new homes and business. I will set out further details of the timetable for introducing incentives in due course.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to issue new planning guidance to councils to encourage housing development. [5223]

**Robert Neill:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to the leader of each local authority in England on 27 May to reaffirm our commitment to abolish Regional Strategies and return decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils. Decisions on housing supply will rest with local planning authorities without the framework of regional numbers and plans.

The coalition agreement makes a clear commitment to providing local authorities with real incentives to build new homes. Local authorities that take action now to consent to and support the construction of new homes will receive direct benefit from their actions.

Our coalition agreement also states that we will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development.

We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward our incentive plans and the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department is providing to people who wish to build their own houses; and if he will make a statement. [5283]

**Greg Clark:** Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3) provides planning guidance on the development of housing. PPS3 applies to all types of developers, including people who wish to build their own homes.

We have committed, in the Coalition Government document "The Coalition: our programme for government", to publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development and work is proceeding on this within my Department.

### Housing: East of England

**Dr Thérèse Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what figures *(a)* Suffolk Coastal District Council and *(b)* Waveney District Council submitted to his Department for the formulation of option 1 of the East of England housing strategy. [5129]

**Robert Neill:** The equivalent to option 1 is the draft East of England Plan Review, published in January 2010, which suggests targets of 290 dwellings a year for Waveney and 440 dwellings a year for Suffolk Coastal, excluding the Ipswich Policy Area.

I would stress that local planning authorities are best placed to determine how to meet their ambitions for housing. They may retain the housing targets set out in the soon to be revoked Regional Strategies or they may decide to review these.

### Local Government Finance

**Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS, on the local government savings pledge, if he will *(a)* undertake and *(b)* publish an impact assessment of the effect of the in-year reductions to grant funding to local authorities on (i) businesses, (ii) levels of growth and (iii) levels of employment in (A) Nottingham, (B) Nottinghamshire and (C) the East Midlands. [4269]

**Robert Neill:** Tackling the UK's record deficit is the Government's top priority and we believe that it is right that local authorities make a contribution to the efficiency savings of £6.2 billion in 2010-11. We have adopted a fair approach to the reductions in grants and funding streams and have limited the amount councils, including those in the East Midlands, lose. The impact on their area of the reductions in grants this year will be for those local authorities to decide. We have ensured that councils, including those in the East Midlands, are able to deliver essential frontline services by making no changes to the £29 billion they receive through Formula Grant and by increasing flexibility for local spending decisions through removing restrictions on how they spend their money.

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he proposes to inform *(a)* Sheffield City Council and *(b)* other local authorities of their in-year reductions in grants from his Department. [5282]

**Robert Neill:** The reduction in grants for individual local authorities for which final allocations had been announced is set out in the document made available to the House at the time of the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS.

The document sets out the main revenue allocations paid to each local authority including formula grant and area based grant.

Further ~~to~~ the ministerial statement, my Department wrote to all local authority chief executives, on the same date, providing specific details of the reductions of grants as they affect individual local authorities.

### Local Government Finance: North East

**Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-17WS, on the local government savings package, if he will *(a)* commission and *(b)* publish an assessment of the effects on (i) businesses, (ii) economic growth and (iii) employment levels in the North East of the in-year reductions in grant funding to local authorities. [4539]

**Robert Neill:** Tackling the UK's record deficit is the Government's top priority and we believe that it is right that local authorities make a contribution to the efficiency savings of £6.2 billion in 2010-11. We have adopted a fair approach to the reductions in grants and funding streams and have limited the amount councils, including those in the North East, will lose. The impact on their area of the reductions in grants this year will be for those local authorities to decide. We have ensured that councils, including those in the North East, are able to deliver essential frontline services by making no changes to the £29 billion they receive through Formula Grant and by increasing flexibility for local spending decisions through removing restrictions on how they spend their money.

### Official Hospitality: Expenditure

**Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on catering in each year from 1997 to 2009. [4852]

**Robert Neill:** The Department has spent the following with its facilities management supplier on catering since 2006. Figures for earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 591,619 |
| 2007-08 | 497,886 |
| 2008-09 | 459,939 |
| 2009-10 | 314,557 |

### Planning

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make revisions to Planning Policy Guidance 3 to allow for the revocation of planning consents previously granted. [5297]

**Robert Neill:** Local planning authorities already have powers to revoke or modify planning permissions, but use them rarely and exceptionally. Local authorities are liable for compensation to applicants for abortive expenditure and any other loss or damage resulting from such action. A key tenet of the planning system is that once planning permission has been granted the applicant should be able to proceed with certainty.

### Regional Planning and Development

**Simon Kirby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects his review of successor arrangements to regional development agencies to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [5058]

**Robert Neill:** The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills issued a joint statement to the House on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 34WS, in which they called for local councils and businesses to send proposals to Government on how they would like to form local enterprise partnerships to replace the regional development agencies. Further details will be published in the Government White Paper on economic development later this summer.

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce the replacement of the regional spatial strategy system of planning; and if he will make a statement. [5284]

**Robert Neill:** We are absolutely committed to abolishing regional strategies. We are keen to move in advance of legislation and are currently considering revoking regional strategies ahead of taking legislation through Parliament. We will make a statement shortly.

### Social Rented Housing

**Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to ensure *(a)* local authority and *(b)* private sector tenants have greater security of tenure. [4797]

**Andrew Stunell:** As the Minister for Housing, my right hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) said in this House on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 451, we will respect the tenures of social tenants. The vast majority of social tenants have a very secure degree of tenancy.

We believe that the existing legislative framework covering the private rented sector achieves the right balance between the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants. In the past, excessive regulation of the sector led to a severe contraction as landlords sold up and left. Particularly in the current financial climate, we would not want to make changes that would discourage growth in the sector and risk rising private sector rents and reduced choice for tenants. That would not help low income households that rely on private renting for their homes.

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to review security of tenure for social tenants. [5224]

**Andrew Stunell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Housing, my right hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 10 June, *Official Report*, column 451.

### Tenant Services Authority

**Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for the abolition of the Tenant Services Authority. [5680]

**Grant Shapps:** The Government are reviewing the role and purpose of the Tenant Services Authority and the framework for social housing regulation, in line with our commitment to reduce the number of quangos and cut unnecessary regulation. The review will conclude as quickly as possible.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

### Electoral Register

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which local authority had the lowest percentage *(a)* increase and *(b)* decrease in the number of people on its electoral register in the last two years. [4363]

**Mr Harper:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:*

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking which local authority had the lowest percentage *(a)* increase and *(b)* decrease in the number of people on its electoral register in the last two years (4363).

The local authority with the lowest percentage increase in the number of people registered to vote in local elections from 2007 to 2009 is Hartlepool Unitary Authority, with an increase of 0.33 persons per 1,000 voters.

The local authority with the lowest percentage decrease in the number of people registered to vote in local elections from 2007 to 2009 is Cardiff Unitary Authority, which decreased by 0.18 persons per 1,000 voters.

The latest year for which electoral registration data are available is 2009. These changes have been expressed as increases or decreases per 1,000 people because the numbers involved are too small to helpfully express as percentages.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr Watson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to answer *(a)* Question 226, on the Committee on Nuclear Deterrence and Security tabled on 25 May 2010, *(b)* Question 291, on departmental official cars, tabled on 25 May 2010 and *(c)* Question 576, on the use of Chevening, tabled on 26 May 2010. [3841]

**The Deputy Prime Minister** *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answers of 29 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 532W on departmental official cars and 30 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 563W on Chevening.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office the right hon. Member for West Dorset (Mr Letwin) on 17 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 519W on the Committee on Nuclear Deterrence and Security.

## HEALTH

### Arthritis: Health Services

**Mr Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions officials in his Department have had *(a)* with NHS organisations and *(b)* the National Audit Office on the 18-week referral-to-treatment standard for people with rheumatoid arthritis; and what assessment has been made of the effects on people with rheumatoid arthritis of the introduction of that standard. [5273]

**Mr Burstow:** During the National Audit Office's field work for the value for money report "Services for people with rheumatoid arthritis", departmental officials provided referral-to-treatment data to the National Audit Office to inform the study.

Latest data show that in April 2010, the average (median) waiting time from referral to treatment was 3.4 weeks for rheumatology patients admitted to hospital for treatment and 5.7 weeks for rheumatology patients whose treatment did not require an admission to hospital. Rheumatology is the treatment function category into which most rheumatoid arthritis patients will fall.

The revised NHS Operating Framework for 2010-11, published on 21 June, removed the burden of politically determined central performance management of the 18 week waiting times target set by the Department. The Department will continue to publish and monitor referral to the treatment data. This will incentivise providers and commissioners to work together to keep clinically unjustified waits down and to tackle unnecessary variation.

Targets that were not grounded in clinical evidence had unintentional consequences and fettered clinical judgments and autonomy. The Government are determined to liberate clinicians and empower patients to deliver better outcomes.

Officials have not held discussions with national health service organisations on the 18 week referral-to-treatment standard for people with rheumatoid arthritis.

**Mr Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to conduct a formal evaluation of self-management programmes provided by the NHS to patients with rheumatoid arthritis. [5274]

**Mr Burstow:** It is the responsibility of commissioners of healthcare services to ensure that their populations have access to and information about the services available to them. "Your Guide to Local Health Services" enables primary care trusts to ensure that patients receive local information about services including support for self care.

At a national level, NHS Choices provides people living with long-term conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, with information about the choices that should be available to them locally to enable them to self care in partnership with health and social care professionals.

The Expert Patient Programme Community Interest Company has developed a training course specifically on rheumatoid arthritis that is co-delivered by a lay person with rheumatoid arthritis and a rheumatology specialist nurse. The programme will be available nationally and is supported by the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society.

The Department currently has no plans to conduct a formal evaluation of self-management programmes provided by the national health service to patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

**Mr Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of rheumatoid arthritis specialist nurses working in the NHS; how many rheumatoid arthritis specialist nurses he expects to be working in the NHS in 2012; with reference to the oral evidence taken before the Public Accounts Committee on 23 November 2009, on services for people with rheumatoid arthritis, HC 46, Session 2009-10, what the evidential basis is for the expectation that the number of specialist rheumatoid arthritis nurses in the NHS is increasing; and if he will make a statement. [5295]

**Mr Burstow:** The expectation that the number of rheumatology specialist nurses is increasing is based on the rounded care model for rheumatoid arthritis which is built around a multidisciplinary team approach. Multidisciplinary teams within rheumatology services see some of the functions traditionally carried out by consultant rheumatologists appropriately transferred to other members of the team, such as specialist nurses.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline 79 "The management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults" makes the multidisciplinary team, including a specialist nurse, a key priority for implementation.

**Mr Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the oral evidence taken by the Committee of Public Accounts on 23 November 2009, on services for people with rheumatoid arthritis, HC 46, Session 2009-10, what progress his Department's Acting Director-General for Commissioning and System Management has made in responding to the request made in question 21 to investigate the potentially adverse effects of commissioning decisions on patient care in the rheumatology specialty; and if he will make a statement. [5296]

**Mr Burstow:** The Department's policy is clear—all patients should be treated without unnecessary delay according to their clinical need, it is for doctors to determine a patient's clinical priority, and patients should not experience undue delay at any stage of their treatment pathway. It is important, therefore, that services match their capacity with demand so that no patient waits unnecessarily to be seen whether for their first appointments or for follow-up appointments.

Data published by the Department of Health looking on an all speciality basis show that the ratio of subsequent attendance (follow-up) to first out-patient appointment has remained broadly stable over the last three years at around two (subsequent attendances) to one (first out-patient appointment).

*Source:*

Department of Health Monthly Activity Return (MAR) and Quarterly Activity Return (QAR)

## Dementia: Health Services

**Tracey Crouch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress his Department has made in implementation of the National Dementia Strategy; [4738]

(2) what plans he has to improve dementia care; and if he will make a statement. [4740]

**Mr Burstow:** We plan to build on the National Dementia Strategy published on 3 February 2009 by accelerating the pace of improvements through a greater focus on delivery and local accountability and through empowering citizens to hold local organisations to account. This process will be aided by driving up quality standards through a tariff for dementia patients, better regulation of providers, improving commissioning processes to deliver greater efficiencies and through national health service and public health interventions having a greater focus on outcomes for individuals.

Additionally, revisions to the NHS Operating Frameworks for 2010-11 identified dementia as an area for local prioritisation. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to decide locally how best to deliver the national requirements and local priorities set out in the NHS Operating Framework including the National Dementia Strategy. Local PCTs are asked to publish their plans for implementing the strategy.

In order to gauge progress overall in implementing the National Dementia Strategy, the Department is undertaking a national audit of dementia services. We will use the data from this, alongside information from locality action plans prepared by local authorities and PCTs in March 2010, in order to focus on where action is required to accelerate implementation of the Strategy.

In addition, the Department is updating the current implementation plan for the National Dementia Strategy to ensure that it is focussed on those areas that will have the most impact on the lives of people with dementia and their carers. These include: promoting early diagnosis and referral with general practitioners, care of people in hospital and care homes with dementia and reduction of the prescribing of anti-psychotic medication to people with dementia.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review; [3641]

(2) how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3663]

**Mr Simon Burns:** The Department works with its suppliers on an ongoing basis to maximise value for money and continual service improvement in the delivery of its contracts.

From May 2010, the Department has targeted categories of spend worth approximately £19.5 million in the first instance—this is for information and communication technology (ICT) products and services, travel, office supplies and catering. The breakdown of this figure is:

1. ICT products and services—£6 million

2. Travel, office supplies and catering—£13.5 million

Officials have met, or are planning to meet, the current suppliers of each of these services to agree where additional monetary savings on expenditure can be derived. It is likely that the Department's suppliers will also be engaged in discussions with Cabinet Office and Office of Government Commerce colleagues relating to cross-Government savings opportunities where the supplier provides services to a number of Government Departments.

The Department is also represented on the existing procurement Category Boards and Working Groups led by the Office of Government Commerce and Cabinet Office. The Department will fully support the Government's plans to support increased efficiency savings through procurement.

The Department estimates that five officials are spending a proportion of their time working on the renegotiation of existing contracts. It is not possible at this stage to provide a savings figure, or to say how much expenditure will be incurred or when such renegotiations will be completed.

### Drugs: Finance

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost savings to the NHS attributable to parallel trading in each of the last three financial years; [4586]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the effect on NHS costs of manufacturers' quotas on medicines and drugs and of restrictions on the parallel importation of drugs and medicines in the last three years. [4698]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Costs and savings to the national health service attributable to parallel trading and manufacturers' quotas are not separately identifiable. The Department is unaware of any restrictions placed on the parallel importing of drugs and medicines.

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with pharmaceutical manufacturers on their quotas for the supply of medicines and drugs to the NHS in England. [4699]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Departmental officials regularly meet with supply chain and manufacturer representatives to discuss issues affecting the supply of medicines.

### Hearing Impairment

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will require personal music players sold in the UK to have a health notice forming part of the permanent casing warning users of the potential danger to their hearing of playing them too loudly; and if he will make a statement. [4770]

**Mr Burstow:** There are no plans to require personal music players sold in the United Kingdom to have a statutory health warning. The safety and regulation of consumer products, such as personal music players is, within government, primarily a matter for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.

### Hospitals: Admissions

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the additional cost to NHS trusts of paying hospitals for the treatment of individual patients according to their subsequent re-admission for the same condition. [5166]

**Mr Burstow:** Given that emergency re-admissions into hospitals have increased from 359,719 in 1998-99 to 546,354 in 2007-08[1], we have decided that from 1 April 2011 hospitals will not receive further payment for avoidable re-admissions within 30 days of discharge. No formal estimate has been made by the Department. Officials are working on the detail of this change.

[1] *Source:*

Compendium of clinical and health indicators, National Centre for Health Outcomes Development, October 2009.

### Hospitals: Greater London

**Glenda Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of average waiting times to be seen at the accident and emergency department at *(a)* the Royal Free Hospital, *(b)* Whittington Hospital, *(c)* University College London Hospital and *(d)* St Mary's Hospital, Paddington in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [4810]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Information is not collected in the format requested.

Information is held at the level of trusts and information is not available for specific hospital sites. The following table sets out the mean and median time spent between arrival and departure in accident and emergency (A&E) departments for Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust, The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust in 2008-09 (latest data available).

*Minutes*

| *Hospital provider* | *Mean duration to departure* | *Median duration to departure* |
|---|---|---|
| Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | 182 | 156 |
| The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | 164 | 169 |
| University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 143 | 139 |
| Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust | 155 | 127 |

*Notes:*

1. An attendance is a record for every patient that attends an A&E department, including a major A&E department, single specialty A&E departments, walk-in centres and minor injuries units. Any one patient can have multiple attendances, which may be in the same or different time periods, for the same or different condition.

2. Duration to Departure: The time (expressed as a whole number of minutes) between the patients arrival and the time the A&E attendance has concluded and the department is no longer responsible for the care of the patient.

3. A&E Data Quality: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by a number of NHS providers across England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seek to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. The A&E HES publications addresses some of the key data quality and coverage issues. These are available on HESonline at:
www.hesonline.nhs.uk

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

### Lung Cancer: Screening

**Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the results of the Health Technology Assessment's pilot study undertaken as part of the UK Lung Cancer Screening Trial; and if he will make a statement. [4688]

**Mr Burstow:** The Department's current expectation is that the United Kingdom lung cancer screening trial pilot study will start in early 2011. The result of the study is likely in these circumstances to be published in the second half of 2013.

### Pharmacy: Standards

**Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the number of patients who had to wait more than 48 hours to be dispensed medicines after presenting prescriptions to a pharmacy or dispensing doctor in the latest period for which figures are available; [4585]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the wholesale and retail pharmaceutical sector of manufacturers' quotas for the supply of medicines and drugs in England. [4700]

**Mr Simon Burns:** We are aware of various issues that are causing supply difficulties and delays to the dispensing of some medicines and manufacturers. Wholesalers and pharmacists are making additional efforts to ensure patients get their medicines when they need them. While no assessment has been made of the number of patients affected by these issues, the Department continues to work collaboratively with supply chain organisations to explore further measures to help alleviate the situation.

### Stomach Cancer

**Chris Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of newly-diagnosed patients with stomach cancer who are recommended for treatment; and if he will make a statement; [5131]

(2) how many people were diagnosed with stomach cancer in the last year for which figures are available; and of those how many people were *(a)* tested for HER2 positive status and *(b)* found to be HER2 positive. [5132]

**Mr Burstow:** The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of stomach cancer are for the year 2007, in which 6,330 people were diagnosed. In 2008-09, the number of finished admission episodes (FAEs) where the primary diagnosis was stomach cancer was 22,251.

An FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

It is for individual clinicians to recommend appropriate treatments for patients based on the available evidence. To assist clinicians, in 2001 the Department published "Improving Outcomes in Upper Gastro-intestinal Cancers", which set out recommendations on how services for patients with upper gastro-intestinal cancers, including stomach cancer, should be organised in order to ensure the best outcomes.

The information is not held in the format requested. Information concerning the proportion of newly diagnosed stomach cancer patients who are recommended for treatment is not collected centrally, and neither is information concerning how many people diagnosed with stomach cancer in the latest year for which figures are available were tested for HER2 positive status and were found to be HER2 positive.

### Strokes: Health Services

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding his Department has allocated for the implementation of the National Stroke Strategy in 2010-11; [5149]

(2) whether he expects changes to be made to the level of funding for the implementation of the National Stroke Strategy in 2010-11. [5150]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Funding of the stroke strategy has largely been provided through primary care trust baseline allocations which were increased to take account of the demands of implementation. It is for the national health service locally to decide how best to invest resources to meet the strategy's objectives. When the strategy was published, additional central funding was also made available. Of this, £34 million is earmarked for 2010-11 and currently there are no plans to increase or decrease this.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to publish an evaluation of the progress made on implementing the National Stroke Strategy. [5151]

**Mr Simon Burns:** Progress with implementation of the stroke strategy is kept under review. In February, the National Audit Office published a comprehensive report on the progress in improving stroke care following the 2007 stroke strategy and this gives the information we need at this point in time. Options for a longer evaluation will be considered in due course.

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Business Services Association

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials within his Department have met the Business Services Association since his appointment. [5258]

**Mr Prisk:** I have not met the Business Services Association since I took office; Ceri Smith, Director of this Department's Business Environment and Growth Directorate, met the Association on 26 May.

### Colleges Renewal Grant

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) with reference to the letter to hon. Members from the Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning dated 21 June 2010, which colleges will receive a share of the renewal grant; [5019]

(2) with reference to the letter to hon. Members from the Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning dated 21 June 2010, which colleges will be entitled to apply for a share of the enhanced renewal grant. [5020]

**Mr Hayes:** There are 158 colleges eligible to receive a share of the renewal grant. These colleges are listed as follows. These very same colleges are also eligible to apply for a share of the enhanced renewal grant.

*Eligible colleges*

Abingdon and Witney College
Accrington and Rossendale College
Amersham and Wycombe College
Askham Bryan
Aylesbury College
Barking College
Barnfield College
Basingstoke College of Technology
Bedford College
Bexley College
Bicton College
Blackburn College
Blackpool and the Fylde College
Boston College, Lincolnshire
Bournemouth and Poole Further Education College
Bradford College
Bridgwater College
Brockenhurst College
Brooklands College
Brooksby Melton College
Burton College
Bury College
Cambridge Regional College
Capel Manor College
Carlisle College
Carshalton College
Central Bedfordshire College
Chelmsford College
Chesterfield College
Chichester College
Cirencester College
City College Brighton
City College Plymouth
City of Bath College
City of Sunderland College
City of Wolverhampton College
Cleveland College of Art and Design
College of Harringey, Enfield and North East London
College of West Anglia
Craven College
Dearne Valley College
Derwentside College
Dudley College
Eastleigh College
Fareham College
Farnborough College of Technology (FCOT)
Fircroft College of Adult Education
Grantham College
Greenwich Community College
Grimsby Institute
Guildford College of Further and Higher Education
Hackney Community College
Halesowen College
Harlow College
Harrow College
Hartpury College
Havering College of Further Education
Henley College, Coventry
Hereford College of Arts
Hereward College, Coventry
Hillcroft College
Hopwood Hall College
Hugh Baird College
Hull College
Huntingdonshire Regional College
Isle of Wight College
Joseph Priestley College
Kensington and Chelsea College
Kidderminster College
Kingston College
Kingston Maurward College
Knowsley Community College
Lakes College West Cumbria
Lancaster and Morecambe College
Leeds College of Art and Design
Leeds College of Building
Leek College of Further Education and School of Art
Lewisham College
Lincoln College
Loughborough College
Lowestoft College
Mary Ward Centre (The)
Mid Cheshire College
Milton Keynes College
Morley College
Moulton College
Myerscough College
New College Nottingham
New College Stamford
New College Swindon
Newbury College
Newham College of Further Education
Northern College for Residential Adult Education
PETROC (new name for North and East Devon Colleges)
North East Surrey College Of Technology (Nescot)
North East Worcestershire College
North Hertfordshire College
North Lindsey College
North Nottinghamshire College
North Warwickshire and Hinckley College
Northbrook College
Northumberland College
Norton Radstock College
Norwich City College
Oaklands College
Otley College
Oxford and Cherwell Valley College
Peterborough Regional College

Plymouth College of Art and Design
Preston College
Redbridge College
Richmond Adult Community College
Richmond upon Thames College
Riverside College Halton
Rotherham College of Arts and Technology
Royal Forest of Dean College
Runshaw College
Ruskin College
Salford College
SEEVIC (Essex)
Shipley College
Shrewsbury College of Arts and Technology
South Downs College
South Nottingham
South Staffordshire College
South Tyneside College
South Worcestershire College
Southgate College
Southport College
Southwark College
Sparsholt College
Stafford College, Staffordshire
Stanmore College
Stourbridge College
Stratford College
Strode College
Sussex Downs College
Tameside College
Telford College of Arts and Technology
Thanet College
The Calderdale Colleges Corporation
The Henley College
The Oldham College
Tower Hamlets College
Tyne Metropolitan College
Uxbridge College
Wakefield College
Walford and North Shropshire College
Waltham Forest College
West Nottinghamshire College
West Suffolk College
Weymouth College
Wiltshire College
Worcester College of Technology
Workers' Educational Association
Working Men's College (The)
Worthing College
Yeovil College

## East of England Development Agency

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the East of England Development Agency spent on *(a)* corporate hospitality, *(b)* alcoholic drinks of each type, *(c)* food and *(d)* conference facilities and room hire in each year since it was established. [4872]

**Mr Prisk:** The East of England Development Agency's (EEDA's) financial reporting systems are unable to separate spend into the four categories above. Information is held on costs for catering, hospitality and corporate entertaining.

|  |  |  | £ |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | *Catering* | *Hospitality* | *Corporate entertaining* |
| 1999-2000 | 0.00 | n/a | n/a |
| 2000-01 | 650.01 | n/a | n/a |
| 2001-02 | 44,104.29 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002-03 | 12,350.20 | 3,000 | 4,650 |
| 2003-04 | 15,784.76 | 9,418 | 11,582 |
| 2004-05 | 19,517.80 | 6,851 | 32,777 |
| 2005-06 | 22,015.27 | 6,233 | 55,409 |
| 2006-07 | 19,703.96 | 674 | 35,767 |
| 2007-08 | 28,522.86 | 9,543 | 53,465 |
| 2008-09 | 28,579.93 | 312 | 18,500 |
| 2009-10 | 21,341.83 | n/a | n/a |

EEDA defines "hospitality" and "corporate entertainment" as expenditure on individuals or groups of stakeholders and partners that is paid for directly by EEDA.

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the East of England Development Agency spent on *(a)* internal communications and *(b)* external marketing and advertising in each year since it was established; how many staff it employed in each salary band (i) in internal communications and (ii) external marketing communications and advertising in each of those years; and whether the agency had an internal magazine during this period. [4873]

**Mr Prisk:** Please see the following table for details of how much the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) has spent on each of the specific categories requested.

*(a) Internal communications*

The following amounts were spent on internal communications.

*Spend on internal communication*

|  | £ |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | n/a |
| 2000-01 | n/a |
| 2001-02 | n/a |
| 2002-03 | 5,000 |
| 2003-04 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 2,838 |
| 2005-06 | 3,657 |
| 2006-07 | 2,926 |
| 2007-08 | 4,787 |
| 2008-09 | 1,709 |
| 2009-10 | 2,140 |

Due to the nature of our financial reporting systems, data on spend for the purposes of internal communications cannot be extracted prior to the financial year 2002-03.

*(b) External marketing and advertising*

EEDA's spend on marketing and communications is listed in EEDA's Annual Report and Accounts. These are published on EEDA's website

www.eeda.org.uk

and are available from the Libraries of the House.

*(c) Staff employed by salary band*

*Number of staff employed (FTE equivalent)*

| | *Internal communications*[1] | *External marketing communications*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 0 | n/a |
| 2000-01 | 0 | n/a |
| 2001-02 | 0 | n/a |
| 2002-03 | 0 | n/a |
| 2003-04 | 0 | n/a |
| 2004-05 | 0.6 | n/a |
| 2005-06 | 0.6 | n/a |
| 2006-07 | 0.6 | 10 |
| 2007-08 | 0.6 | 9 |
| 2008-09 | 0.6 | 9.2 |
| 2009-10 | 0.6 | 9.2 |

[1] The FTE salary band for the 0.6 FTE in Internal Communications is TAC 4 £25,289 - £29,083.

[2] External marketing communications is defined as marketing, public relations and communications. Due to the way EEDA retains information on staff and organisational structure, it is not possible to extract information on this prior to the financial year 2006-07.

The salary bands for the 9.2 employees working on external marketing communication roles in the financial year 2009-10 are as follows: -

| *Number of staff* | *Grade* | *Salary band (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | SM1 | 56,960 |
| 1 | PM4 | 48,048 - 53,106 |
| 1 | PM3 | 41,727 - 46,784 |
| 2 | PM2 | 35,404 - 40,461 |
| 3 | PM1 | 29,083 - 34,140 |
| 1.2 | TAC4 | 25,289 - 29,083 |

*(d) Internal magazine*

EEDA has never published an internal magazine for staff. All written communication with staff is electronic, via the organisation's intranet and email systems.

**Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff members are allocated to maintaining the East of England Development Agency's EREBUS website; and what recent assessment he has made of the value for money derived from expenditure on the website. [5234]

**Mr Prisk:** The maintenance of the East of England Development Agency's (EEDA's) EREBUS (Eastern Region Broadband Uplift Scheme) website amounts to two hours each month for one member of staff.

The EREBUS website was built internally at EEDA. The development of a scripting tool (to manipulate automated email responses) was commissioned externally and cost £355.00. The annual fee for hosting the domain for this website is £211.56.

No assessment has been made of the value for money derived from expenditure on the website. EEDA has received positive feedback from broadband providers regarding the erebusonline website.

## Post Offices

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects on the income of sub-post offices which do not have a national lottery terminal in circumstances in which Camelot's application to offer post office services through lottery terminals is granted; and if he will make a statement. [5299]

**Mr Davey:** Camelot's proposal to provide commercial services through lottery terminals is still subject to the regulatory approval of the National Lottery Commission. If the commission consents to Camelot's proposal, Post Office Limited will carry out an assessment of the impact on sub post offices.

## Regional Development Agencies

**Mrs Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research he has undertaken on the likely effects on the *(a)* number of jobs and *(b)* economy in each region of his proposals to end regional development agencies; and if he will make a statement. [5153]

**Mr Prisk:** Our proposals are for restructuring the delivery landscape for economic development. Replacing the regional development agencies (RDAs) with local enterprise partnerships will ensure that these partnerships better reflect the natural economic geography of the areas that they serve.

Reorganising the delivery of economic development will ensure a focussed targeted delivery of policy/services in areas where it can have the most benefit, and we would not expect that this transition will have a negative impact on the economy in the English regions or the number of jobs.

## Regional Growth Fund

**Angie Bray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to allow funding from the Regional Growth Fund to be provided to areas of serious deprivation in regions to which the fund does not apply. [4458]

**Mr Prisk** *[holding answer 29 June 2010]*: The Regional Growth Fund, launched on 29 June by the Deputy Prime Minister, will create the conditions for growth and enterprise in the regions by stimulating investment and create sustainable private sector jobs.

The details of the fund and criteria for selection of successful proposals are still to be determined and will be outlined in the forthcoming White Paper on local and regional growth. The fund will, though, apply to the whole of England and bids will be invited from both private bodies and public-private partnerships. Proposals will need to demonstrate high value, bringing in private investment and supporting sustainable increases in private sector jobs and growth in the local area that the proposal covers.

## Regional Planning and Development

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which bodies are to have responsibility for *(a)* inward investment, *(b)* growth, *(c)* economic regeneration strategy and *(d)* cross-boundary infrastructure projects in each region; and if he will make a statement. [5164]

**Mr Prisk:** The Government will replace regional development agencies with local enterprise partnerships. We are reviewing all the functions of the RDAs. Some of these are best led nationally, such as inward investment, sector leadership, responsibility for business support, innovation, and access to finance, while others can be scrapped, such as Regional Strategies. Local enterprise partnerships will want to create the right environment for business and growth in their areas, by tackling issues such as planning and housing, local transport and infrastructure priorities, employment and enterprise and the transition to a low carbon economy. The Government have asked for outline proposals from partnerships of local authorities and businesses.

Further detail will be provided in the White Paper on sub-national growth that will be published later in the summer.

## Regional Planning and Development: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Mr Blunkett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which organisation or co-ordinating body will have responsibility for *(a)* assisting the creation of new businesses and *(b)* developing the private sector in Yorkshire and the Humber; and if he will make a statement. [5163]

**Mr Prisk:** The coalition Government are committed to reforming our system of sub-national economic development by enabling councils and business to replace the existing regional development agencies. We are encouraging local businesses and councils to work together to develop their proposals for local enterprise partnerships. We anticipate the local enterprise partnerships will wish to provide strategic leaderships in their areas to set out local economic priorities.

Local enterprise partnerships will therefore want to create the right environment for business and growth, by tackling issues such as planning and housing, local transport and employment and enterprise. Supporting small business start-ups will therefore be important.

## Students: Finance

**Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the effect on the living costs of students of an increase in the rate of value added tax from 17.5 per cent. to 20 per cent. [4894]

**Mr Willetts:** No estimate has been made of the effect on student living costs of the value added tax increase.

# Ministerial Correction

*Thursday 24 June 2010*

## JUSTICE

### Topical Questions

T9. [2248] **Barbara Keeley** (Worsley and Eccles South) (Lab): In a recent case, a Salford man had committed a rape and was bailed, but then committed a further rape, and the police believe that there are further victims of this man. Can the Secretary of State explain why the Government have committed in their coalition agreement to extending anonymity to such defendants before all the evidence is heard? Can he also say who will now be consulted for that evidence?

*[Official Report, 15 June 2010, Vol. 511, c. 735-36.]*

*Letter of correction from Mr Kenneth Clarke:*

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Worsley and Eccles South (Barbara Keeley) on 15 June 2010. The answer given was as follows:

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** With great respect, I find it very surprising that so many questions are being raised about a proposition that has been before the House, on and off, for the past 20 years and is not easily resolved. We will, of course, look at all arguments, including the experience of the case to which the hon. Lady has referred, but that is only one of the considerations to be taken into account. There will undoubtedly sometimes be cases where the publication of the name of the accused person gives rise to other people coming forward with well-founded complaints against that person. We will have to see whether there is any evidence that such cases are a significant proportion of the total cases of rape. We shall also have to consider the arguments on the other side, where a woman can make an anonymous complaint, the man can eventually be convicted, after going through a long and probably rather destructive ordeal, and the woman retains her anonymity as she walks away, with her ex-boyfriend or ex-husband left to live with the consequences.

The correct answer should have been:

**Mr Kenneth Clarke:** With great respect, I find it very surprising that so many questions are being raised about a proposition that has been before the House, on and off, for the past 20 years and is not easily resolved. We will, of course, look at all arguments, including the experience of the case to which the hon. Lady has referred, but that is only one of the considerations to be taken into account. There will undoubtedly sometimes be cases where the publication of the name of the accused person gives rise to other people coming forward with well-founded complaints against that person. We will have to see whether there is any evidence that such cases are a significant proportion of the total cases of rape. We shall also have to consider the arguments on the other side, where a woman can make an anonymous complaint, the man can eventually be acquitted, after going through a long and probably rather destructive ordeal, and the woman retains her anonymity as she walks away, with her ex-boyfriend or ex-husband left to live with the consequences.

# Ministerial Correction

*Tuesday 29 June 2010*

## BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

### Advantage West Midlands

**Christopher Pincher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people are employed by Advantage West Midlands; how many people compose the non-executive Board of Advantage West Midlands; and what the total cost to the public purse of payments to *(a)* employees and *(b)* Board members is to date. [2852]

*[Official Report, 17 June 2010, Vol. 511, c. 530W.]*

**Mr Prisk:** The following tables show:

*(a) Number of and cost of employees*

| | *Number/£* |
|---|---|
| Number of employees headcount (full-time equivalent (322)) | 346 |
| Cost (£) | 18,358,000 |

Staff numbers are as at the snapshot reference date 31 March 2010 and cost is for the financial year 2009-10. Costs for payroll employees are defined as pay bill i.e. salary, ERNICs and pension; and

*(b) Number of and cost of board members*

| | *Number/£* |
|---|---|
| Number of board members (including chair) | 15 |
| Cost (£) | 231,412 |

Board member costs are from the 2008-09 financial year and include chair pension costs and board travel expenses. Board members now receive a remuneration of £8,666 per annum for minimum of two days per month with no pension entitlement.

The chair receives a remuneration of £81,718 per annum for three days a month and receives a pension.

Under the RDA Act 1998 an RDA board must have 15 members with the majority being business positions.

*Letter of correction from Mr Mark Prisk:*

In my reply of 17 June to the question from the hon. Member for Tamworth (Christopher Pincher) I said "The Chair receives a remuneration of £81,718 Per annum for three days a month and receives a pension." I regret that due to an administrative error this is incorrect and the answer should have indicated that the Chair receives the same remuneration for three days a week.

The correct answer should have been:

**Mr Prisk:** The following tables show:

*(a) Number of and cost of employees*

| | *Number/£* |
|---|---|
| Number of employees headcount (full-time equivalent (322)) | 346 |
| Cost (£) | 18,358,000 |

Staff numbers are as at the snapshot reference date 31 March 2010 and cost is for the financial year 2009-10. Costs for payroll employees are defined as pay bill i.e. salary, ERNICs and pension; and

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| | *Number/£* |
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| Number of board members (including chair) | 15 |
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The chair receives a remuneration of £81,718 per annum for three days a week and receives a pension.

Under the RDA Act 1998 an RDA board must have 15 members with the majority being business positions.